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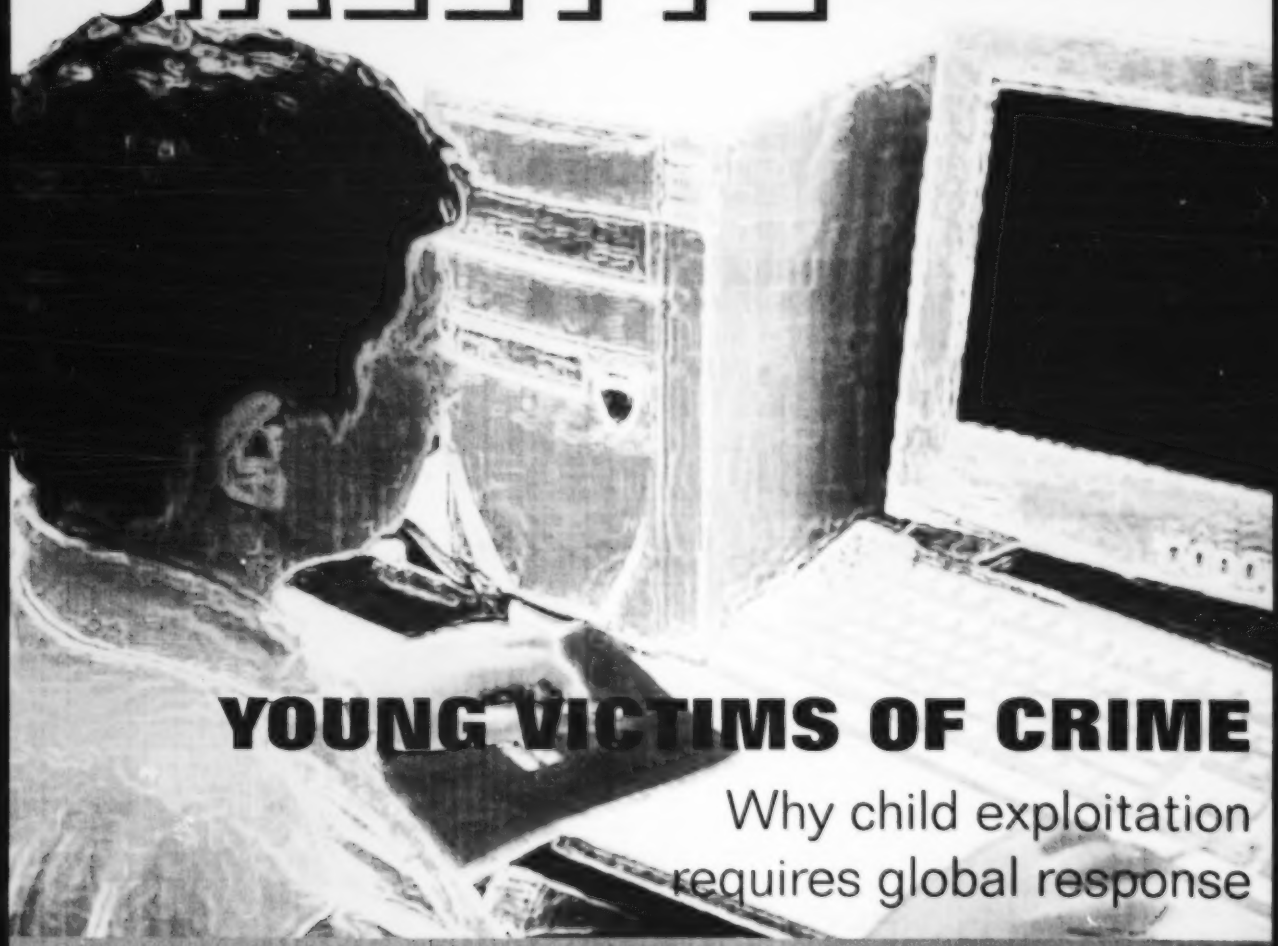

YOUNG VICTIMS OF CRIME

Why child exploitation requires global response

ONLINE LINGO
Chat slang you need to know

IMAGE ANALYSIS
Scouring photos to save kids

MISSING A MUNCH?
Worldwide trends in art crime

Royal Canadian Mounted Police / Gendarmerie royale du Canada

Canada

Beyond the sad facts

Last fall, when I first considered the possibility of devoting an issue of the *Gazette* to child exploitation, I had some concerns. I wondered whether filling an issue of the magazine with such bleak subject matter would be genuinely helpful or if it would be construed as sensational. How would we illustrate these stories? Where would we even begin?

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This issue focuses largely on child sexual exploitation online but also touches on other crimes that directly affect children. The good news—and yes there is some—is that police in Canada and around the world are making strides in investigating child sexual exploitation on the Internet and they are doing it by working together.

Our cover section begins with the work of the National Child Exploitation Coordination Centre in Ottawa and how it supports Canadian police agencies and law enforcement worldwide to better investigate these cases. Created just two years ago at a time when incidents of child sexual abuse were exploding on the Internet, the NCECC is now seen internationally as a model.

We also look at what approaches Canadian police agencies are bringing to the table. Det/Cst Warren Bulmer, an image analyst and victim identification officer with the Toronto Police Service, talks about victim-focused investigations and what police can do better to rescue kids. Sûreté du Québec (SQ) Capt Gervais Ouellet and psychologist Gilles Ouimet describe the SQ's approach to providing emotional support for police officers who investigate child sexual exploitation day after day. The key is trust and accessibility.

RCMP Sgt Stéphane Denis is a computer forensic instructor at the Canadian Police College. He writes about chat slang—the abbreviated and always-changing language used by kids (and sexual predators) in chat rooms and text messages. Knowing the lingo is one of the new skills that investigators should not be without.

For a global look at child sexual exploitation, Det/Sgt Michael Morin, a police officer with An Garda Síochána in Ireland, talks about his current work at Interpol's Child Abuse Image Database. He says the database can save police agencies hundreds of hours of investigation time with great results, but only if they help populate it.

On the academic front, researchers from Canada, Ireland and the U.K. look at the international research gaps in child sexual exploitation and how filling them will help academics, police agencies and social services support victims. Professor Martine Powell from the School of Psychology at Deakin University in Australia writes about the benefits of using open-ended questions when interviewing child victims and provides guidance for investigators.

We also explore other forms of child exploitation. Canadian youth activist Cheryl Perera talks about her experience helping victims of the child sex trade in the Phillippines. And we hear about how police and the medical community in North America are getting better at finding the proper care for children who have been exposed to home-based drug labs.

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—Katherine Aldred

More to explore on crimes against children from the Canadian Police College Library

www.cpc.gc.ca/library_e.htm

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ON THE COVER

There are few areas of crime as disturbing as those committed against children. In this issue, we look at the move among police agencies worldwide to share their resources when helping young victims of crime, whether online or offline.

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RCMP HERITAGE CENTRE OPENS DOORS

The Canadian public now has a place to better educate themselves about the past and present-day work of the country's national police force.

The new RCMP Heritage Centre, located on the grounds of the RCMP's Training Academy in Regina, opened its doors May 23, the day of the RCMP's 134th anniversary.

Visitors can view a multitude of exhibits, many of which educate them about today's RCMP as opposed to solely showcasing relics from the past.

"This facility is more than simply a repository of RCMP history," says Sgt Steve Smedley, project manager. "It will educate, inform and even entertain visitors."

The modern centre is designed to better showcase the RCMP's role in shaping Canada's past, present and future. It houses the previous RCMP Centennial Museum's artifacts, but also includes interactive exhibits and "a very striking multimedia experience," says Smedley.

Roxanne Ouellette

Commr Bev Busson gets a tour of the new RCMP Heritage Centre in Regina and one of the many interactive exhibits on display.

The multimedia experience is held in a 225-sq. m theatre and delivers a stimulating show that includes video, surround sound, light and 3-D elements. Other interactive exhibits give visitors a real feel for forensic investigation including fingerprinting, DNA analysis and ballistics. There are also plans to incorporate some outdoor exhibits once sufficient funding is secured through the centre's fundraising campaign.

Planning for the Heritage Centre began in 1995 at the request of a community group that wanted the RCMP to get the recognition it deserves and to help educate the public about the role of the police force. As part of an existing 25-year site development plan created for the training academy, the Heritage Centre was given a location to build on that site in 2002. Construction of the Centre began in the fall of 2005.

"In contrast to RCMP in-house museums, this facility provides the public with information on the history of the RCMP, right up to what the members on the street are doing today," says Donna Brownlee, Chief Executive Officer responsible for the development of the RCMP Heritage Centre. "This Centre will definitely leave the visitor with a real sense that the RCMP is a modern police force."

—Ronan Rushe

For more information please visit www.rcmpheritagecentre.com .

DUAL ROLE ABOUT SHARING

When Cst Steve Conohan left his home detachment in Newfoundland to spend a month in Pakistan, he was representing more than the RCMP: he was also representing his local Beaver Troop.

In November 2006, Conohan happened upon a magazine article describing an award being presented to a Scout Troop in Pakistan. Around the same time, he learned he would be teaching drug-related policing skills to local Pakistani authorities near the Pakistani Scout Troop headquarters. Conohan saw a great opportunity to combine his two roles and expose his Beaver Troop – the Paradise Beavers A Troop – to something they might otherwise never experience.

"The crux was to promote understanding and acceptance of other cultures to my Beaver Troop," says Conohan.

He presented the idea to his RCMP superiors, Scouts Canada, his fellow Beaver leaders and the Beavers and their parents—everyone was supportive. The Beaver Troop contributed two weeks of their dues, amounting to $4 per Beaver, and RCMP employees also chipped in to fill a duffel bag with much-needed school supplies for the Scouts in Pakistan. The gift was in keeping with the Beaver motto of "sharing, sharing, sharing."

Conohan met with Hadid Maboob, the National Director of Pakistan Boy Scouts Association in Islamabad, to discuss scouting in their respective countries. Throughout the month, Conohan stayed in touch with his troop members by sending them photos and detailing his adventures.

"On a personal level it was a fantastic experience to speak to these people and learn about their lives, (even) more so to be able to relate it to the boys," says Conohan.

International training

As part of his RCMP duties, Conohan travelled to several cities including Peshawar, Karachi and Islamabad, the capital city. At each location, he presented drug-related policing methods to local police officers. He paid particular attention to the methods of discovering and properly disposing of precursors used to change morphine to heroin. "The RCMP is looked at as being at the forefront in international training and policing. (It is) important to share our knowledge," Conohan says. "At the same time, I learned a lot about the problems they face every day and how they are different from (our own)."

—Ronan Rushe

RCMP Sgt Michel Boyer and Cst Steve Conohan don the traditional Pakistani dress called the Shalwar Kamiz during their visit last fall. They are being escorted to Khyber Pass near the Afghanistan border by members of the Khyber Rifles.

NEW PROTOCOL ON FOREIGN INVESTIGATORS IN CANADA

The Government of Canada has endorsed a Protocol on Foreign Criminal Investigators in Canada.

The protocol sets out Canada's notification and approval requirements for regulating the entry and monitoring of foreign criminal investigators pursuing criminal investigations in Canada. It also describes the respective roles and responsibilities of foreign and Canadian embassies and law enforcement bodies under this process.

"This protocol will assist in providing clarity and assistance to foreign criminal investigators wishing to pursue criminal investigations in Canada," said Public Safety Assistant Deputy Minister Diane MacLaren. "It also protects the integrity of Canada's law enforcement system and safeguards sovereignty, security and the public interest."

The protocol applies in all cases where there are no other formal notification and approval processes. It does not replace existing formal notification mechanisms, such as Interpol or agreements in which the federal government is a participant and where travel notification and approval arrangements are already in place.

Under the new protocol, a request must be sent to Canada's Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) at least two weeks in advance of the proposed visit. DFAIT then notifies the RCMP, which reviews the request and consults with Canadian police forces in the relevant jurisdiction before a final decision is made. This is consistent with the approach taken by many countries, which require foreign criminal investigators to give reasonable notification to the foreign state and obtain approval prior to their entry.

"The protocol is intended to ensure that no foreign investigations are undertaken in Canada without knowledge of Canadian law enforcement," said RCMP Assistant Commissioner Raf Souccar, Federal and International Operations. "This is essential in order to ensure the safety of our personnel, that of foreign investigators as well as the integrity of our investigations."

—Melanie Roush

For more information, visit: www.rcmp.ca/intpolicing/fcip_index_e.htm

A different take on GP systems

To the editor,

In a recent *Gazette* Panel Discussion on the accuracy of geographic profiling (GP) systems (*Gazette*, Vol. 69, No. 1, 2007), Professor Brent Snook claims that human predictions are more accurate than those of complex software.

He and his colleagues conducted research that found "students typically produced smaller search areas [by drawing them following two basic rules] that contain the offenders' home location than those produced by the GP system." A careful analysis of their research reveals a fundamental flaw. When they calculated the size of these search areas, they used a geometric formula that involved multiplication by a scaling factor. But what they should have done was multiply by the square of the scaling factor, just as the radius must be squared when determining the area of a circle. This is why the students' strategic search areas were smaller than those produced by the GP system they tested (this system, by the way, is not the one used in Canadian policing).

Two other points should be addressed. Snook encourages the use of "simpler/cheaper human prediction" for geographic profiling. But GP services are available free from the RCMP, the Ontario Provincial Police, the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and the British National Crime and Operations Faculty.

Finally, Snook's call for field studies ignores the evaluations done by police agencies in Canada, the U.S. and the U.K.—all with results similar to those quoted by S/Sgt Scot Filer. One of the agencies that evaluated GP—the Irvine (California) Police Department—recently won the International Association of Chiefs of Police/ChoicePoint Award for excellence in criminal investigation for solving a 10-year professional burglary series through the use of geographic profiling and other techniques.

D. Kim Rossmo
Research Professor and Director
Centre for Geospatial Intelligence and Investigation
Texas State University
San Marcos, Texas

Unravelling crime

Knots can reveal all kinds of clues

Cpl John Van Tassel has an uncommon skill: he is an expert in forensic knot analysis (FKA). Even though he is now retired from the RCMP, Van Tassel continues to help in investigations around the world that require his specific expertise. The Gazette*'s Ronan Rushe recently caught up with Van Tassel to learn more.*

Cpl John Van Tassel, an expert in forensic knot analysis, says you cannot determine a person's handedness from the knots they tie—a common misconception.

When did you first get involved in forensic knot analysis?

I first became involved in FKA while posted in Chetwynd, British Columbia from 1980 to 1985. I was asked to investigate a complaint of alleged satanic or occult occurrences. The complainant advised of strange happenings and produced a knotted cord assumed to be symbolic of satanic practices. Being a knot practitioner, I started to research knots and their uses with respect to crime. Because of this interest, I was contacted by the Calgary Police and asked to help with their investigation of a double homicide that involved knotted ligatures.

What information can you glean from knots?

The knots can provide some background on the tier such as skill in tying, knowledge of knot tying, and associating knots with various trades or occupations, recreations, hobbies and crafts. You can also provide a lead in an investigation where few or no other leads exist, corroborate witness statements and confirm the alibi or statement from a suspect or an accused. You may be able to link serial-type crimes by comparing evidence from various crime scenes. You can also assist the evidence recovery technicians, where the best area for DNA extraction would be and assist them by loosening or untying the knotted evidence after it has been secured by photographs, sketching and investigation note-taking.

What types of cases would require your expertise?

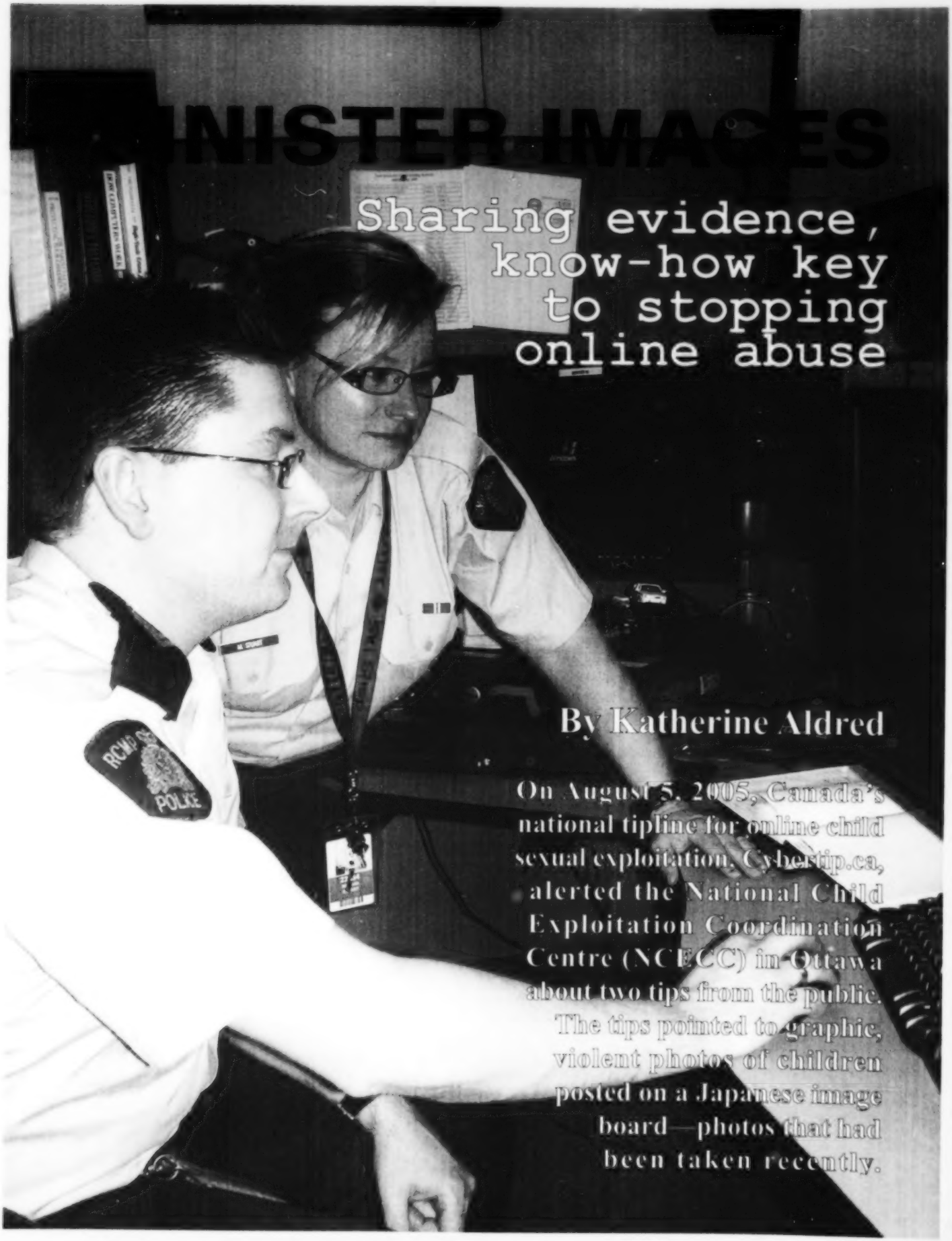
Forensic knot specialists would be beneficial in murder or homicide cases where knotted ligature evidence was present or suspected, as used to bind, hang, garrotte, restrain or control a victim. The specialist would also be helpful in coroner's cases for suspicious suicides to help determine how a victim could have restrained himself or could not have been able to extricate himself before succumbing. They can also assist the coroner with any queries about knotted configurations being used for alternate or deviant sexual activities.

Is there one particular case that stands out in your mind?

There was one case, a homicide, where the perpetrator strangled a victim using an unusually tied knot then attempted to eradicate the evidence by burning down the premises. The knotted ligature was subsequently forwarded to me for identification. Subsequent to the release of the suspect for lack of evidence, he later turned himself in to an RCMP detachment in another province and wished to confess to the crime to clear his conscience. After liaising with the originating agency and being advised of the identified knotted ligature evidence, the second investigator asked the suspect if he would be able to tie the same knots he tied on the victim using a bootlace the investigator had removed from his own boot. The additional piece of evidence was forwarded to me and its identification showed the same knot tied in the bootlace. This physical evidence confirmed the confession of an accused.

What element of forensic knot analysis is the most misunderstood?

Probably the most misunderstood is the correlation between knot chirality ("handedness" or asymmetry in knot-tying) and human handedness. Although we are very habitual in our tying and tend to tie the same every time, there are individuals of like handedness whose propensities for knot-tying are opposite. Although knot identification and chirality can be associated with an individual, most people believe that this chirality is a direct correlation to their handedness. This assumption is wrong: one cannot determine the handedness of a tier from the knots they tie. ■



SINISTER IMAGES

Sharing evidence, know-how key to stopping online abuse

By Katherine Aldred

On August 5, 2005, Canada's national tipline for online child sexual exploitation, Cybertip.ca, alerted the National Child Exploitation Coordination Centre (NCECC) in Ottawa about two tips from the public. The tips pointed to graphic, violent photos of children posted on a Japanese image board—photos that had been taken recently.

"There was an indication of recent and ongoing abuse," says Cst Judy Foy, an investigator at the NCECC. "It became very important for us to capture the images before they were taken down," and the evidence disappeared.

By August 8, the NCECC had copied the images, which investigators examined for clues. A few of the photos even showed fleeting glimpses of the offender's face—a rarity—which an image analyst immediately scoured for details. The images also appeared to show the same victims, constituting a series.

This was the beginning of how police identified the "K" series. This international investigation involved the co-operation of numerous police agencies, including the Toronto Police Service, the NCECC, the U.S. National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, the Bundeskriminalamt (BKA) Austria (Austria's federal investigation bureau) and BKA Germany (the German federal criminal police).

> **"If you get the criminal charges, that's a bonus, but really it's about finding the kids and stopping the abuse."**
>
> *Supt Earla-Kim McColl*

Within three months, those initial tips led to the rescue of three 8- to 10-year-old girls in Germany who were being sexually abused in their homes, and to the apprehension and subsequent conviction of an offender. All the work in between involved Canadian and international investigators acting quickly and sharing information.

"Within a very short period of time from us receiving the images, [BKA Germany] had found and rescued those girls, and that's really what it's all about," says Supt Earla-Kim McColl, officer in charge of the Canadian Centre for Missing and Exploited Children, which includes the NCECC. "If you get the criminal charges, that's a bonus, but really it's about finding the kids and stopping the abuse. It was a very rewarding case for us."

Integrated effort

In today's wireless environment, where anyone can transmit images with ease and speed anywhere in the world, collaboration is the only way police can hope to catch offenders of child sexual exploitation online.

"There are few cases that start in one jurisdiction and end there," says McColl. "We used to get one international multi-jurisdictional case every six months. Now we get one every two to three weeks."

The NCECC was launched in the spring of 2005 following a massive multi-jurisdictional case out of the U.S. that involved thousands of suspects from 60 countries who were paying to access child pornography online. When the file—dubbed Project Snowball—came to Canada in 2001, there were more than 2,300 Canadian 'persons of interest' but police struggled with where to send the information, how to validate the evidence and then how to disseminate it.

"Snowball was the catalyst for [creating the NCECC] because, in all honesty, Canadian law enforcement wasn't prepared to handle it," says McColl. "We didn't have the expertise and we didn't have the methodology in place to handle files of that magnitude."

Today, as part of the RCMP's National Police Services, the NCECC co-ordinates all national and international complaints of Canadian-produced child exploitation on the Internet by validating and copying the evidence, determining the jurisdiction, and disseminating the evidence to the appropriate Canadian police service. Its members include officers from numerous police services.

The centre also keeps track of identified and unidentified child victims on its secure database so Canadian police don't duplicate their investigative efforts or spend time looking for a victim who has already been rescued.

Every day, the NCECC works with a network of police investigators from across Canada and internationally who work on child exploitation cases in their own jurisdictions. However, as with most cases of child sexual exploitation on the Internet, the images don't stay within one jurisdiction for very long. They can turn up anywhere—including a Japanese image board.

Checking the database

When officers at the NCECC first captured the "K" series images, they posted them to their database to see if any other Canadian police agencies had seen them before. When the Toronto Police Service cross-referenced the images against its own database, it found photos related to the same series. The analysis of the photos pointed to Austria or Germany.

"Everybody can have pieces of the puzzle," says Det/Cst Bill McGarry, a TPS image analyst who worked on the "K" series. "One agency will seize the images and another may have images that complete the series. Meeting in a secure environment on the Internet allows us to look at the pictures simultaneously and give each other instant feedback."

The NCECC contacted the BKA Austria and BKA Germany with the information and handed over an investigational package complete with 56 images.

"They provided us with the first analysis of the content very quickly," said Det/Insp Daniel Szumilas of the BKA Germany's Child Pornography Unit who worked on the case. "This was very important as we were dealing with ongoing abuse."

Investigators in Germany and Austria conducted a subsequent visual and

Katherine Aldred

Cpl Rick Gendre and Cst Michaela Stuart investigate an ongoing case at the NCECC in Ottawa

technical analysis of the images and further narrowed the search to Germany. German police later uncovered a clue that led to the arrest of a 50-year-old German truck driver on Oct. 31, 2005.

The offender was living in the same home as two of the victims and next door to the third, and was considered a friend of the family. During a search of the residence, police also found a video camera and video tapes containing violent and incriminating sexual assaults.

The offender was convicted on December 20, 2006, and sentenced to 14 years imprisonment (one year less than the maximum offence) with a possible "preventative detention" to follow – a measure that would keep the offender in a psychiatric hospital until he is no longer deemed a danger to society.

Growing violence

As the "K" series and the harsh sentence demonstrate, the increasingly violent nature of child sexual exploitation online is a frightening reality.

"These are not 14-year-olds dressed as school girls," says McColl. "This is about kids being sexually abused, and the kids are getting younger and the acts more violent. We struggle with a lack of appreciation by the public, the police and other agencies about how serious this is."

Advances in technology are also concerning. While the technology is used for good, the offenders can and do use evolving technology for their own purposes.

The Ontario Provincial Police's (OPP) Child Pornography Section, known as "Project P," has been in place for more than 30 years, well before Canada's first child pornography law came into effect in 1993. OPP Supt Angie Howe worked at "Project P" from 2003 to 2006 and says offenders are very quick to employ the latest technologies.

Advances in technology are concerning. While the technology is used for good, the offenders can and do use evolving technology for their own purposes.

"It used to be that offenders would find each other through magazines, then along came the explosion of the Internet," says Howe. "Now they use their digital cameras and share their images with hundreds of people. The guys doing this stuff have all the time in the world – and often all the money in the world."

Det/Sgt Kim Scanlan, manager of the Child Exploitation and Special Victims Sections of the Toronto Police Service, agrees. "What we're seeing right now is that crimes are evolving at the same pace technology is evolving."

While police use the same technology as the offenders to uncover clues in images and track offenders, Scanlan predicts that technological know-how will prove to be the biggest challenge for police down the road.

"I would suggest that technology will be the greatest challenge, particularly encryption," says Scanlan. "We are trying to keep up with these changes, but the [offenders] are very savvy. They are finding places to gather that are not accessible to us."

Training investigators is critical, and much of the NCECC's role is to enable police agencies by offering courses and providing investigative assistance where needed.

"We're about helping police agencies do their jobs better," says McColl. "We provide training and tools, we lobby for legislative amendments, we do research on the trends and keep law enforcement informed."

All the more reason to share those resources, says McColl, including technological expertise.

"We have to establish a worldwide network of co-operation that works fast and is straightforward," adds Szumilas. "The NCECC has proven to be a very reliable partner in this challenge."

The successful resolution of the "K" series is perhaps the best example of how those partnerships can work – but only if police reach out to one another. ■

ICE team brings down cyber-predators

By Ronan Rushe

One of the most disturbing forms of child exploitation is child pornography, a problem that is growing in its frequency and severity, particularly as the Internet becomes more accessible.

Despite affording certain anonymity to its users, the Internet is being policed by law enforcement agencies around the world. One such example is the Sûreté du Québec's (SQ) Integrated Child Exploitation (ICE) team, a joint task force of Quebec's provincial police and the RCMP.

According to Cst Shirley Black, an RCMP officer and member of the ICE team, their work starts with someone filing a complaint. While the team does not take complaints directly from the public, it receives them once they have gone through a screening process at the SQ or some other police agency, Cybertip.ca (Canada's tipline for reporting child sexual exploitation) or the National Child Exploitation Co-ordination Centre.

> **"The ones committing the crimes are becoming more savvy, so the more police forces there are (working together), the better"**
>
> *Cst Shirley Black*

This team investigates only child pornography images originating in Quebec. But according to SQ Sgt André Boileau, who supervises the ICE team, about 95 per cent of all the files that come across their desk are initiated from complaints made outside of Quebec. In other words, someone in another province or country notified authorities about child exploitation images they saw on the Internet. If the images are linked to a suspect in Quebec, this team gets the call.

Their main goal is to identify and rescue victims, but they also investigate possession, distribution and production of child pornography and luring cases, according to Black.

Not only are the crimes becoming more common, they are also becoming more violent, says Black. Many people think child pornography consists of 17-year-olds flashing their webcams. According to Black, there is more and more interest in pre-pubescent victims, and simple nudity isn't satisfying offenders anymore. "Now it's who can produce or provide something more graphic, more violent," she says.

Once they receive a file, the ICE team conducts all the major police work, such as validating the complaint, conducting surveillance and background checks, and obtaining search warrants from Internet service providers (ISPs). They are also responsible for making the arrest, interviewing witnesses, and taking the person to court.

Black describes one investigation in which a man in his early 20s was arrested for distributing child pornography online. When the team searched his computer and home, they found the first names and phone numbers of more than 40 girls, 10 of whom recalled chatting with the suspect online.

"The modus operandi of the suspect was to chat with young girls he chose from a website," says Black. "He would convince the girls to meet him, usually at their home or his, which he shared with his mother. Once in his room, he would turn his computer on and, without the consent or knowledge of the victims, he would film their sexual contact with his webcam." The victims were between 12 and 14.

A person under the age of 14 cannot, according to Canadian law, consent to having herself or himself photographed or filmed. In this case, the offender was also charged with producing child pornography. "The person was found guilty and received a firm prison sentence," says Black.

While many people have an image of offenders being a certain age and character, there is no particular profile for them.

"The ones committing the crimes are becoming more savvy, so the more police forces there are (working together), the better," says Black. "There is less chance of missing something."

Joint effort

The fact that the team is integrated is a major reason behind its ability to function so effectively. By working together, these investigators can pool their resources and have access to more databases than either force would have on its own.

"Being a joint task force permits us to work faster and use our resources without doubling our efforts," says Boileau.

Until last December, the original ICE team also included members of the Montreal City Police Department (MCPD). However, the existing team is hoping to add another municipal agency once funding comes through.

A former member of the ICE team, Detective Martin Lacerte of the MCPD, says that working as a team was a major factor in their success and, he says, a highlight in his career. "The work was very, very gratifying," says Lacerte.

And for the victims of these crimes, their team work can also mean a chance at a new life. ■

Hazardous if ignored

Police have new tool to help drug-endangered kids

By Katherine Aldred

We've all read the headlines about police green teams raiding marijuana grow operations, crack houses and home-based methamphetamine labs located in quiet residential neighbourhoods. While shutting down these home-based drug labs makes communities safer, there is one vulnerable group that's often forgotten: the young victims found living in these hazardous environments.

"A lot of times, you go through the door, get the bad guys and then, 'Oh, was there a kid in there?'" says S/Sgt Ian Sanderson of the RCMP's Drugs and Organized Crime Awareness Service in Alberta. "In the past, we might have found a neighbour for the child to stay with, but that may not be the most appropriate measure. Sometimes, it places the child in a worse situation."

On November 1, 2006, Alberta became the first province in Canada to pass drug-endangered children legislation. The Drug Endangered Children Act defines a child's exposure to certain drug activities as child abuse. This gives police and other authorities the power to intervene for the child's protection, and possibly charge parents.

Children exposed to drug activity such as manufacturing, cultivation and trafficking are at high risk for chronic respiratory disorders, neurological damage, cancer as well as physical, emotional and sexual abuse.

"In many cases, there are high levels of chemical toxins and carbon dioxide in the home and toxic levels in the children's blood," says Sanderson. "But there is also the psychosocial aspect. You see neglect, abuse and exposure to gang activity, all of this as their young brains develop. This predisposes kids to all kinds of problems and puts them on a negative life trajectory."

Dr. Kiti Freier, a clinical pediatric psychologist at Loma Linda University and Children's Hospital in California, knows what can happen to children exposed to home-based meth labs, a major problem in the community of San Bernardino, Calif.

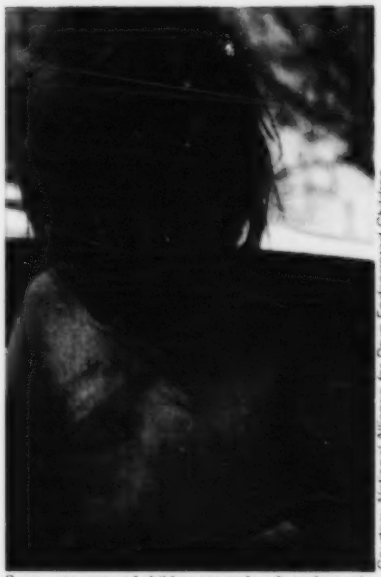
"I can tell you that children exposed to meth who get referred to me often show more aggression and more sexualized behaviour [than other children]," says Freier. "They may have behavioural problems, language disorders and show signs of post-traumatic stress. They also form disorganized attachments because they will likely have had a variety of caregivers and parents who were not capable of caring for them."

Freier, who is a member of the National and California alliance for Drug Endangered Children, says increased awareness among the law enforcement, child protection and medical communities is making a difference.

"Each one of us can be a positive agent of change," says Freier. "When a cop arrives on the scene and learns that child's name, the message is 'I'm here for your safety.' For the child at that time, a word of encouragement can make a world of difference. The biggest encouraging sign is that people aren't just trying to pass these kids off – they are putting them in the system."

Using the U.S. (DEC) alliance as a model, Alberta has expanded on it to include drug activity of all kinds.

In St. Albert, Alberta, the RCMP is piloting a multi-disciplinary response team with the goal of getting drug-endangered children the immediate and long-term help they need. The joint team includes municipal police forces, investigators with Alberta Children's and Family Services and members of the medical community and local fire department. Through Canada Drug Strategy funding, the project has developed a model for community-based response teams, a resource guide and training package.



Courtesy National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children

Drugs, weapons and children can make a hazardous mix. Alberta's *Drug Endangered Children Act* defines a child's exposure to certain drug activities as child abuse.

The approach has shown good results in treating medical issues, developing evidence for additional charges and providing care for the children that breaks the cycle of drug activity.

Other jurisdictions are paying attention. The Ottawa Police Service (OPS) is working with the RCMP, the Children's Aid Society and the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario to reduce the impact of drug exposure on children in that city.

"Last fall, our drug section arrested a guy on cocaine possession while he was in his vehicle," says S/Sgt Marc Pinault, formerly of the OPS Drug Section. "In the back seat was a 10-month-old child. The guy had a loaded 9 mm down the leg of his pants and a pound of cocaine. To me, that's a drug-endangered child."

In Ottawa last fall, 120 people were trained in DEC response. Pinault says the next step is for the participating organizations to sign a protocol that will permit them to share DEC information with each other. "We're half way there," says Pinault. "The key is to provide a long-term solution for these kids." ■

How should Internet service providers help to prevent online child sexual exploitation?

The panellists

Jay Thomson, Assistant Vice-President, Broadband Policy, TELUS
Jim Gamble, Chief Executive, Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre, U.K.
S/Sgt Mike Frizzell, National Child Exploitation Coordination Centre, RCMP

Jay Thomson

Canadian Internet service providers (ISPs) are proud of the fact we are already helping in many ways to prevent Internet child exploitation (ICE) in a manner that reflects our role and abilities not only as providers of Internet connectivity, access and hosting services, but also as good corporate citizens.

Since 2004, when Canada's major ISPs helped establish the Canadian Coalition Against Internet Child Exploitation (CCAICE), we have actively worked with other stakeholders—including law enforcement agencies, government, Cybertip.ca (Canada's national ICE tipline) and other industry participants—to develop and implement a multi-faceted national strategy to fight the online distribution of ICE images.

The CCAICE national strategy is built on three pillars: public education, law enforcement and industry co-operation, and technical and network management.

Through substantial annual financial support, Canada's major ISPs contribute significantly to Cybertip.ca, including to its successful public awareness campaigns.

At CCAICE's early meetings, law enforcement agencies promoted as their first priority a need to obtain more timely access to basic ISP customer information in the course of their ICE investigations. ISPs listened and, after CCAICE thoroughly investigated the associated legal and privacy issues, worked with the National Child Exploitation Coordination Centre (NCECC) to develop an expedited process for the disclosure of ISP customer name and address to ICE investigators at the pre-warrant stage. We continue to work with NCECC on improving this process. With ISPs that have already adopted this new co-operative disclosure system, police agencies investigating ICE cases can now obtain timely basic customer information for the vast majority of Canadian Internet users.

Because law enforcement agencies were also concerned that ICE investigations could be hampered by their inability to quickly identify the appropriate contact person within an ISP company, ISPs established a database of appropriate contacts within their companies. We hope to continue to expand this database to include even more ISPs.

Technology and network management can also play a role in this multi-faceted battle. To this end, Canada's major ISPs, in partnership with Cybertip.ca, recently launched Project Cleanfeed Canada, an initiative to block access to foreign-hosted ICE web sites. The participating ISPs are pleased with the widespread support Project Cleanfeed has received from police and the federal and provincial governments. We are currently examining ways in which smaller ISPs may join in this initiative.

CCAICE's ISPs have also worked with Cybertip.ca to quickly filter child abuse spam reported to the tipline, thus protecting Canadians against further exposure to it, and have provided law enforcement agencies with technical training respecting emerging technologies.

These various initiatives demonstrate that ISPs can and do contribute to the battle against ICE, and we will continue to work with police agencies and other stakeholders where possible and appropriate to make the Internet safer for Canadians.

Jim Gamble

Child sex abuse will not be tackled by any organization or any sector working in isolation. Anyone speaking from a law enforcement agency experienced in tackling this horrific area of criminality will say the same. This is not a crime where we work in silos.

Instead we need to put aside our differing agendas because offenders will look to exploit gaps in any areas where we are not co-operating. We must link up in any way possible if we are to make a lasting difference.

In the U.K. I now lead an organization where such collaborative thinking is the foundation. The Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre is a law enforcement agency with a growing history of successful arrests and prosecutions.

Anyone walking through the Centre today would not know who was a police officer, who came from a child protection charity or who sits with us as a representative of the IT industry. That is what we are about—bringing together skills that are fundamental in tackling child sex abuse.

Our holistic approach has not only

seen an increase in arrests and saved children from direct abuse situations, but so far we have reached over 500,000 children face-to-face with 'safety first' messages. Furthermore, we have brought into our work the combined powers of organizations such as Microsoft, AOL, Visa and the U.K.'s national child protection agency—the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children—all of whom are now integral to our work and overall success.

Similarly we are joining forces on a global scale through the Virtual Global Taskforce (VGT). This is an increasingly powerful alliance of law enforcement agencies from across the world dedicated to tackling this crime with representatives from the U.S., Australia, Interpol, the U.K. and the RCMP in Canada.

The VGT delivers a truly global offline and virtual police presence. The online abuse reporting mechanism we now operate offers children, parents and guardians a service they can access through a mouse click if they feel threatened in any way, at any time.

We see more and more Internet service providers (ISPs) coming to us in the U.K. looking for creative ways to work together. We see an increasing level of social responsibility both from the leading and lesser-known ISPs.

We throw a clear and unequivocal challenge to any organization out there offering live, online communication services: don't let sexual predators prey on your customers. Work with us. The service we offer is free. We are making a very real difference. Let's maximize that and make the Internet even more hostile to child sexual offenders and safer for children—a cause that anyone with any sense of morality would endorse.

S/Sgt Mike Frizzell

Society as a whole bears responsibility for the maintenance of law and order. Co-operation between the public and the police is essential to the effective fulfilment of the already difficult tasks performed by the police.[1]

These values have become enshrined in the Canadian justice system and the courts have clearly expressed the moral or social duty of citizens.

ISPs are corporate citizens and they provide a service that brings a risk into your home. As such, they then have a moral and social responsibility to maintain law and order just as any other service provider.

For example, if your child came home from school and turned on the television to see images of children being raped and tortured, you would be outraged and the signal carrier would be held responsible. Why then are we generally encouraged to think differently in the case of the Internet?

Many of us have been silent in the debates suggesting that the Internet should remain a lawless frontier regardless of the costs to our society and especially our children. Themes such as "censorship" and "Big Brother" take precedence over ones that focus on children's rights and citizen accountability.

Although regulation of the Internet does not yet exist, the risks most certainly do. ISPs need to mitigate these risks to fulfil their moral and social duties as corporate citizens.

Five areas are key to this process:

- Education—Internet service should be accompanied by a user manual detailing the risks, the measures to counter them and where to get more information.
- Prevention—Internet connections should be bundled with protective software (anti-virus, anti-spyware, firewall and parental control software) that updates automatically.
- Co-operation—Police requests for a suspect's account information (this could include name, address, phone numbers, e-mail addresses, method of payment information and usage logs but would not include core biographical information such as chat logs, e-mail messages or details of sites visited) should be processed promptly and accurately by an ISP.
- Reporting—When an ISP has reason to believe that someone is using its service for an illegal purpose, the provider should report it to the police and provide any evidence found.
- Initiative—ISPs need to compete on safety as they do on speed and cost.

I'm sure that much of the same controversy existed back when roads were seen as the final frontier and cars became our last expression of freedom in an increasingly urban society. Although rules of the road and vehicle safety measures were slow to come, today we can't imagine travelling safely without them. We also expect car manufacturers to compete on safety by developing safer automobiles.

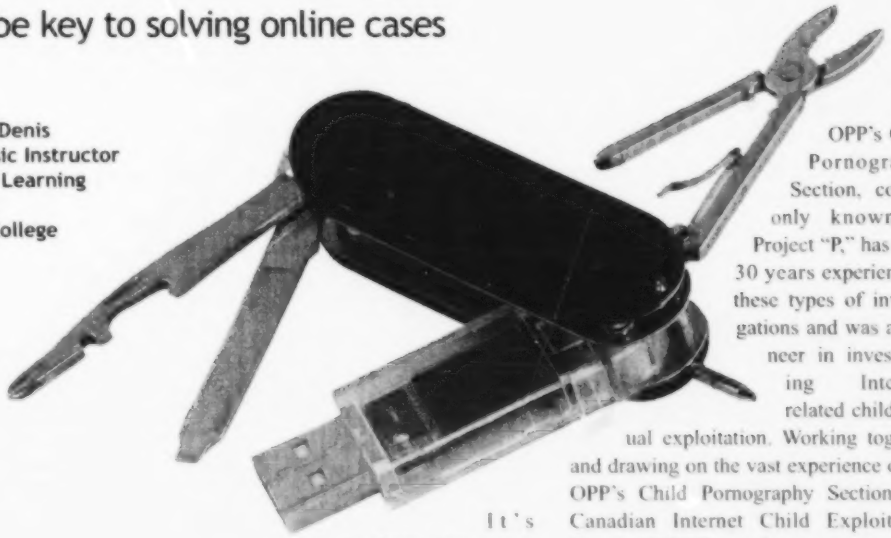
We need to work together to make sure that safety on the Internet quickly becomes as important and commonplace as safety on the road. ■

1 R. V. Dedman [1985] 2 S.C.R. 2 at 19, 46 C.R. (3d) 193, 34 M.V.R. 1, 20 C.C.C. (3d) 97, 20 D.L.R. (4th) 321, 60 N.R. 44 [Ont.]

Do you know the lingo?

Chat slang can be key to solving online cases

By Sgt Stéphane Denis
Senior Computer Forensic Instructor
Technological Crime Learning Institute
Canadian Police College



```
Sk8tr: hey
Ynggrl: sup
Sk8tr: asl
Ynggrl: 15f
Sk8tr: wut
r u doing
2nite
Ynggrl: n2m
Sk8tr: wuf
Ynggrl: paw
```

Is the above text written in a foreign language or is it some sort of secret military code? If you were 14, you wouldn't need to ask that question. These acronyms are now part of every teen's vernacular when communicating with friends in chat rooms or instant messaging. When they are not sitting in front of their computers, they use this abbreviated form of writing when text messaging on their cellular phones.

Teenagers today are adapting the English language to meet their needs for self-expression. But this time, it's happening online and at lightning speed. New acronyms, abbreviations and emoticons — keyboard characters lined up to resemble human gestures or expressions, such as :) smiling — are coined daily.

"This is really an extension of what teenagers have always done: recreate the language in their own image," says Neil Randall, an English professor at the University of Waterloo and author of Lingo Online: A Report on the Language of the Keyboard Generation. "But this new lingo combines writing and speaking to a degree that we've never seen before."

It's in these chat rooms that Internet luring cases usually originate. Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) statistics show that more than 70 per cent of 13- and 14-year-olds have been in chat rooms and 25 per cent of all kids who use Internet chat rooms are asked to meet face-to-face. The startling reality is that 15 per cent do so.

Chat slang

This new chat lingo, or chat slang, is one of the new skills that investigators must acquire in order to properly investigate cases of child sexual exploitation. Investigators may be required to review and interpret chat logs from a missing teen or act in an undercover capacity requiring them to communicate online as a teenager. When assuming the identity of a teenager, an investigator must also be current with teen pop culture in order to be credible.

In 2004, the National Child Exploitation Coordination Centre (NCECC) approached the Canadian Police College (CPC) with the idea of developing a new course designed to deliver specialized training for investigators assigned to internet child exploitation sections across the country.

The OPP's Child Pornography Section, commonly known as Project "P," has over 30 years experience in these types of investigations and was a pioneer in investigating Internet-related child sexual exploitation. Working together and drawing on the vast experience of the OPP's Child Pornography Section, the Canadian Internet Child Exploitation Course (CICEC) was born.

The CICEC given at the CPC covers a number of topics: related legislation and case law, image classification, technology issues, warrant writing, new investigative techniques, offender typology, warrant execution and testifying.

A course-long scenario built on elements of actual luring cases allows participants to complete a condensed version of a full investigation within the 10 days of the course. The course culminates with a mock trial followed by immediate feedback from a judge and a crown prosecutor.

Finding the evidence

The technology issues encountered in these types of cases are becoming commonplace in most police investigations. The pervasive use of technology requires investigators to constantly ask the question "where could that information be stored?" Today's small storage devices have enough capacity to store the entire Encyclopedia Britannica in digital format. Devices that are meant to store one type of data can also store any other type. Digital cameras can hold music or document files; music players can store digital photos and documents; the permutations are endless. Data storage devices may also be

disguised as common objects.

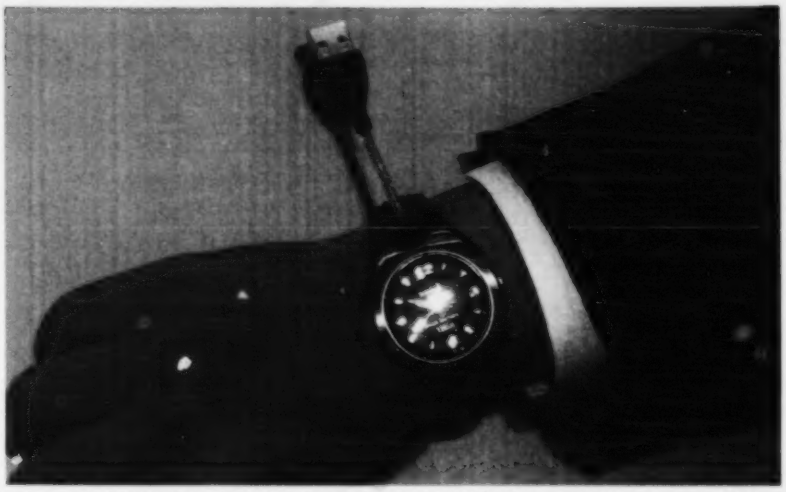
Some of the most powerful home computers are actually the newest video game consoles. Sony's Playstation 3 and Microsoft's XBox 360 are dedicated gaming computers that are also capable of storing vast amounts of data. Offenders can and do use these technologies to surreptitiously store their collections.

Cellular phones are also possible gold mines when it comes to a suspect's personal information. Logs of sent and received phone calls, Internet surfing history, photographs, text messages, list of contacts and appointments, even a history of their travels, can be gleaned from the service provider's records.

Investigators now require an awareness of all of the evidentiary possibilities of everyday technologies. They need to be able to evaluate the relevancy of these devices to their particular investigation and the proper handling procedures when seizing electronic devices.

Electronic data is easily corrupted or destroyed. Electronic devices should only be examined by specially trained personnel. Investigators should seek assistance from trained computer forensic examiners when executing search warrants where they expect to seize computers to ensure the integrity of their electronic data evidence.

Internet-based child sexual exploitation cases usually involve the examination of vast amounts of electronic data. This part of the investigation is left to forensic specialists trained in the recovery of data. The forensic examiner will be able to extract photos, e-mail messages and web surfing history and other user data for review by the investigator. A thorough examination and analysis will often lead to other suspects as well as other victims. These full examinations are quite time-consuming and may not always be completed.



Data storage devices can be disguised as common objects. This USB data watch and pocket knife left have a capacity of up to 256 megabytes and 1 gigabyte respectively.

The Canadian Police College has a long history of training computer forensic examiners and has been able to meet the increased demand for training in this field in the last few years. Its courses are updated regularly to keep current with the latest technologies, and the latest tools and techniques available to forensic examiners and investigators. Also, the CPC continues to develop courses designed for all investigators in the use of the Internet as an investigative tool or the investigation of Internet-related offences.

Today's child sexual exploitation investigators have an obligation to remain current with today's technology to better understand the modern-day offender's techniques of befriending young victims. As a result, investigators should strive to become users of these technologies themselves to gain a better understanding and familiarity with these tools and their vernacular. ■

Translation of introduction

Skater: Hey
Young girl: What' up?
Skater: Age, sex, location
Young girl : 15 years old, female
Skater: What are you doing tonight?
Young girl: Not too much
Skater: Where are you from?
Young girl: Parents are watching

For more information, please visit www.cpc.gc.ca

Internet acronyms

POS - Parent over shoulder
PIR - Parent in room
P911 - Parent alert
PAW - Parents are watching
PAL - Parents are listening
ASL - Age/sex/location
MorF - Male or Female
SorG - Straight or gay
LMIRL - Let's meet in real life
KPC - Keeping parents clueless
TDTM - Talk dirty to me
IWSN - I want sex now
NIFOC - Nude in front of computer
GYPO - Get your pants off
ADR - Address
WYCM - Will you call me?
KFY - Kiss for you
MOOS - Member of the opposite sex
MOSS or MOTSS - Member of the same sex
NALOPKT - Not a lot of people know that

Source: www.netlingo.com and Industry Canada

Behind every picture there is pain

Saving kids from sexual exploitation on the Internet

Every day, police worldwide investigate violent child pornography images that circulate on the Internet—images that hold little or no information about their provenance. In 2003, the Toronto Police Service (TPS) decided to approach the problem by focusing on victim identification. Det/Cst Warren Bulmer—one of two image analysis and victim identification officers at the TPS—explores this unique role and what police need to do globally to save kids.

By Det/Cst Warren Bulmer
Toronto Police Child Exploitation Section

We have all heard the age-old adage "a picture is worth a thousand words." In the forum you are about to read, those words become the unimaginable description of a horrific crime against a child.

When you view these images you are at a loss for words. If you are a normal human being, sensitive or not, you look away in disgust and you feel hatred for the offender and sorrow for the child. The unfortunate consequence of looking away is that the child will suffer longer. That is because the picture, in some cases, can reveal their location or something that could lead to finding them.

The challenge

Law enforcement agencies around the world have some of the most dedicated officers whose primary goal is to rescue these children. Despite our collective efforts, we have managed to identify only about 500 child victims of child pornography. These 500 identified victims represent only one per cent of the estimated 50,000 different children depicted in millions of sexually abusive images on the Internet.

These images of identified children are stored on a worldwide database at Interpol in Lyon, France. The database also includes images of unidentified children that police are investigating.

At this time, there is no mandatory requirement for agencies to submit their respective cases. If all law enforcement agencies contributed their evidence material, we would be in a better position to check our cases against the database to avoid duplication. As it stands now, the lack of information sharing between agencies may result in investigators working on cases that have already been solved or are being investigated elsewhere.

The role of investigators

It is rare in policing that we feel helpless in an investigation or occurrence we are assigned to. However, in cases of sexually abused or exploited children on the Internet, we often feel powerless. The image itself does not normally and readily provide information about its origin. We may have arrested and charged an individual with possessing or distributing that particular illegal image, but more often than not, this person is not the producer nor the offender depicted in it. In traditional law enforcement procedures and principles, the story ends there and the offender gets his day in court.

In 2003 in Toronto, we decided that wasn't enough. We wanted to "think outside the box" and treat each image or child as a separate case. The only goal became finding that child, removing them from the situation they were in, and getting them help. We called it victim identification or "looking beyond the image."

We dedicated an investigator to be the "image guy"—the one who was tasked with looking at all the images to determine whether we had seen them before and, more importantly, if there was anything in the image that gave away the

Interpol database helps abused children

The Interpol Child Abuse Image Database (ICAID) is a powerful tool for saving sexually abused children whose images have been posted on the Internet.

The database consists of images found on the Internet from around the world. Interpol coordinates and analyzes the images to identify where the abuse took place before sending the evidence material to the Interpol Bureau in the identified country for investigation by the police of jurisdiction.

According to Hamish McCulloch, who is responsible for the development of the database, some abusers have been identified within 24 hours of placing their child pornography images on the Internet.

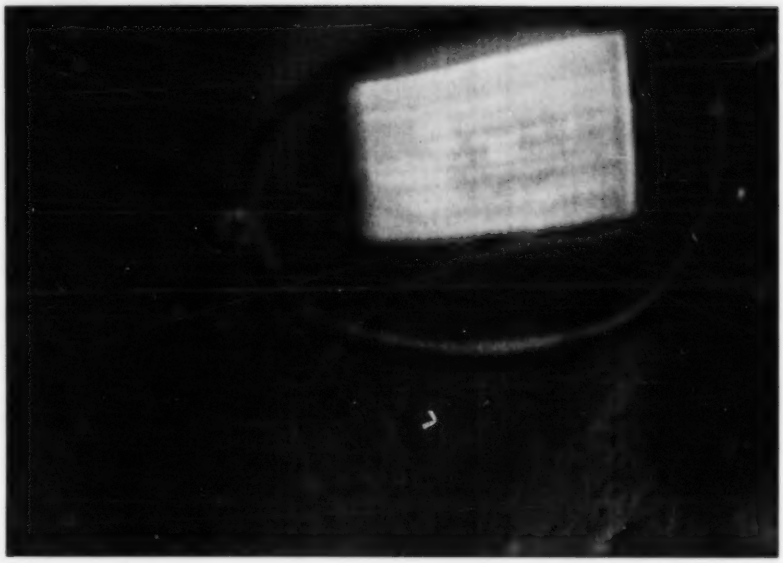
"When Interpol started (this project) in 2001, only 30 victims of online abuse were known to global law enforcement," says McCulloch. "There are now more than 520 (identified victims)."

ICAID was developed using powerful software capable of linking images from the same crime scene or with the same victim. It is also important for Interpol to know which victims have been identified and to link any new images to the identified victim so that police do not waste time investigating a rescued victim.

"Interpol is aware of many investigations that have identified a victim only to find out that he or she had already been rescued from abuse, often several years earlier, but the investigator did not inform anyone," says McCulloch.

The database is currently a stand-alone system but the G8 countries are funding a new database that will be accessible by all Interpol member states.

—Ronan Rushe



location of the child.

At the end of 2004, I was added as an additional investigator to conduct full-time image analysis and victim identification. In the past two years, I have viewed and analyzed well over a million images and movies of child sexual abuse—and honestly, I have stopped counting. We watch every video and look at every picture to find something, anything, to develop a lead.

The role of child exploitation investigators is to look at the evidence and determine whether or not they can make a difference to that child. Storing the images on a server or locking them away in a vault somewhere does nothing to help that child. You might be the only one who has that image and, therefore, you represent that child's only hope.

Two sides of technology

Technology plays a major role in the sexual exploitation of children. On the positive side, it has made our job easier and, in fact, has made us better at what we do. The problem, however, is that technology's benefits are not exclusive to the police.

Technology—specifically the advancement of the Internet—has created new forums for these offenders to meet other like-minded individuals and openly discuss their sexual interest in children. They can easily trade the images and movies in these self-created environments.

The evolution of the webcam has created an epidemic of video streaming, recording and spying. We have seen cases where offenders have produced live child abuse videos using a webcam and shared them with their group. Child sexual abuse videos and still images recorded by webcams have become a part of every collection I now view.

We have had great success in developing new techniques using available software to help us identify victims. We have digitally removed children from abusive images in order to publicly release backgrounds in the hope that someone would come forward and identify a location. We have extracted audio files from videos to isolate a child's voice and determine what language was being spoken. Using both techniques, children have been identified and rescued.

Unfortunately, formal police training in the area of digital imagery does not exist and we have had to learn most of the skills on our own with some help from corporate partners.

Thinking outside the box

When investigating these Internet-facilitated crimes against children, we have to operate outside of traditional law enforcement techniques. The Internet has neither rules nor boundaries and we must stop treating it as if it does. Why would we not want to solve these crimes by using the same tools and methods that the perpetrators use to commit them?

If we are serious about getting better at finding kids, we need help from the private sector in the form of donations. These investigations are costly, time consuming and complicated and they require computers, software and immeasurable dedication.

We also need to help each other. In these types of cases, sharing information with a cop on the other side of the world is paramount. If you don't share your evidence, then you are on your own in a very large place. Even the best software that money can buy doesn't save children—investigators do. ■

"Usually when someone is raped and abused, the criminal goes to prison and the abuse ends. But since 'X' put these pictures on the Internet, my abuse is still going on. Anyone can see them. People ask for them and are still downloading them. Day after day. People want to see me being abused."

— An undisclosed victim

"While the description, in words of such disturbing images is shocking, nobody can fully appreciate the sickening horror of such pornography without actually [seeing] it."

— Ontario Superior Court Justice A.M. Molloy

"For the past three years, I have been a member of the Child Exploitation Section. I have never had a more important and rewarding job in policing. As a victim identification officer, I have been involved in international investigations that have resulted in the identification and rescue of 43 different children from hands-on abuse."

— Det/Cst Warren Bainer, Toronto Police Service

Behind every picture there is pain

Saving kids from sexual exploitation on the Internet

Every day, police worldwide investigate violent child pornography images that circulate on the Internet—images that hold little or no information about their provenance. In 2003, the Toronto Police Service (TPS) decided to approach the problem by focusing on victim identification. Det/Cst Warren Bulmer—one of two image analysis and victim identification officers at the TPS—explores this unique role and what police need to do globally to save kids.

By Det/Cst Warren Bulmer
Toronto Police Child Exploitation Section

We have all heard the age-old adage "a picture is worth a thousand words." In the forum you are about to read, those words become the unimaginable description of a horrific crime against a child.

When you view these images you are at a loss for words. If you are a normal human being, sensitive or not, you look away in disgust and you feel hatred for the offender and sorrow for the child. The unfortunate consequence of looking away is that the child will suffer longer. That is because the picture, in some cases, can reveal their location or something that could lead to finding them.

The challenge

Law enforcement agencies around the world have some of the most dedicated officers whose primary goal is to rescue these children. Despite our collective efforts, we have managed to identify only about 500 child victims of child pornography. These 500 identified victims represent only one per cent of the estimated 50,000 different children depicted in millions of sexually abusive images on the Internet.

These images of identified children are stored on a worldwide database at Interpol in Lyon, France. The database also includes images of unidentified children that police are investigating.

At this time, there is no mandatory requirement for agencies to submit their respective cases. If all law enforcement agencies contributed their evidence material, we would be in a better position to check our cases against the database to avoid duplication. As it stands now, the lack of information sharing between agencies may result in investigators working on cases that have already been solved or are being investigated elsewhere.

The role of investigators

It is rare in policing that we feel helpless in an investigation or occurrence we are assigned to. However, in cases of sexually abused or exploited children on the Internet, we often feel powerless. The image itself does not normally and readily provide information about its origin. We may have arrested and charged an individual with possessing or distributing that particular illegal image, but more often than not, this person is not the producer nor the offender depicted in it. In traditional law enforcement procedures and principles, the story ends there and the offender gets his day in court.

In 2003 in Toronto, we decided that wasn't enough. We wanted to "think outside the box" and treat each image or child as a separate case. The only goal became finding that child, removing them from the situation they were in, and getting them help. We called it victim identification or "looking beyond the image."

We dedicated an investigator to be the "image guy"—the one who was tasked with looking at all the images to determine whether we had seen them before and, more importantly, if there was anything in the image that gave away the

Interpol database helps abused children

The Interpol Child Abuse Image Database (ICAID) is a powerful tool for saving sexually abused children whose images have been posted on the Internet.

The database consists of images found on the Internet from around the world. Interpol coordinates and analyzes the images to identify where the abuse took place before sending the evidence material to the Interpol Bureau in the identified country for investigation by the police of jurisdiction.

According to Hamish McCulloch, who is responsible for the development of the database, some abusers have been identified within 24 hours of placing their child pornography images on the Internet.

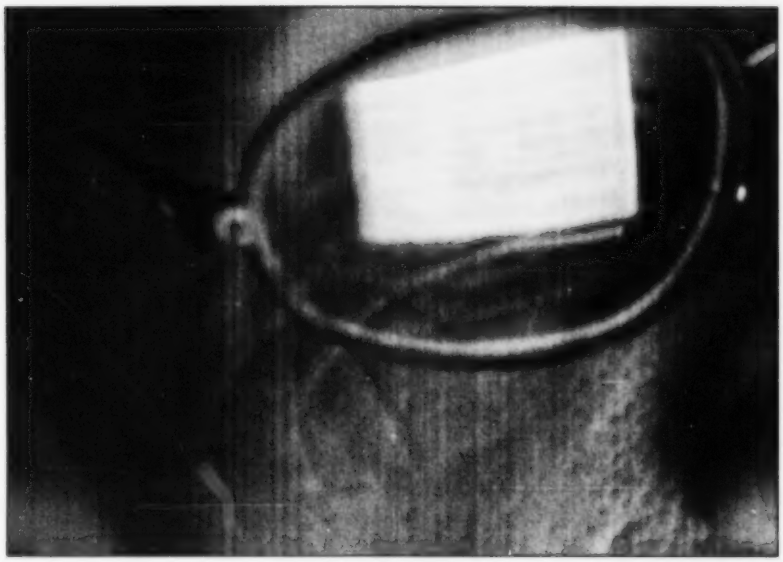
"When Interpol started (this project) in 2001, only 30 victims of online abuse were known to global law enforcement," says McCulloch. "There are now more than 520 (identified victims)."

ICAID was developed using powerful software capable of linking images from the same crime scene or with the same victim. It is also important for Interpol to know which victims have been identified and to link any new images to the identified victim so that police do not waste time investigating a rescued victim.

"Interpol is aware of many investigations that have identified a victim only to find out that he or she had already been rescued from abuse, often several years earlier, but the investigator did not inform anyone," says McCulloch.

The database is currently a stand-alone system but the G8 countries are funding a new database that will be accessible by all Interpol member states.

—Ronan Rushe



location of the child.

At the end of 2004, I was added as an additional investigator to conduct full-time image analysis and victim identification. In the past two years, I have viewed and analyzed well over a million images and movies of child sexual abuse – and honestly, I have stopped counting. We watch every video and look at every picture to find something, anything, to develop a lead.

The role of child exploitation investigators is to look at the evidence and determine whether or not they can make a difference to that child. Storing the images on a server or locking them away in a vault somewhere does nothing to help that child. You might be the only one who has that image and, therefore, you represent that child's only hope.

Two sides of technology

Technology plays a major role in the sexual exploitation of children. On the positive side, it has made our job easier and, in fact, has made us better at what we do. The problem, however, is that technology's benefits are not exclusive to the police.

Technology – specifically the advancement of the Internet – has created new forums for these offenders to meet other like-minded individuals and openly discuss their sexual interest in children. They can easily trade the images and movies in these self-created environments.

The evolution of the webcam has created an epidemic of video streaming, recording and spying. We have seen cases where offenders have produced live child abuse videos using a webcam and shared them with their group. Child sexual abuse videos and still images recorded by webcams have become a part of every collection I now view.

We have had great success in developing new techniques using available software to help us identify victims. We have digitally removed children from abusive images in order to publicly release backgrounds in the hope that someone would come forward and identify a location. We have extracted audio files from videos to isolate a child's voice and determine what language was being spoken. Using both techniques, children have been identified and rescued.

Unfortunately, formal police training in the area of digital imagery does not exist and we have had to learn most of the skills on our own with some help from corporate partners.

Thinking outside the box

When investigating these Internet-facilitated crimes against children, we have to operate outside of traditional law enforcement techniques. The Internet has neither rules nor boundaries and we must stop treating it as if it does. Why would we not want to solve these crimes by using the same tools and methods that the perpetrators use to commit them?

If we are serious about getting better at finding kids, we need help from the private sector in the form of donations. These investigations are costly, time consuming and complicated and they require computers, software and immeasurable dedication.

We also need to help each other. In these types of cases, sharing information with a cop on the other side of the world is paramount. If you don't share your evidence, then you are on your own in a very large place. Even the best software that money can buy doesn't save children – investigators do. ■

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Sin City

Commercial sexual exploitation in the Philippines

There are an estimated 75,000 to 100,000 child victims of commercial sexual exploitation in the Phillippines. Youth activist Cheryl Perera, founder of the Canadian-based organization OneChild, spent a month in that country touring its infamous "Sin City" and speaking to victims of the child sex trade. In the following article, she looks at the problem through the eyes of one victim and explores how governments and law enforcement agencies can help make a difference.

By Cheryl Perera
OneChild Inc.

Courtesy of OneChild

Youth activist Cheryl Perera, stands in front of Rosario Baluyot's tombstone. The inscription reads: "Alone in life, alone in death, except for those of us who cannot forget the throwaway children."

I went to the Philippines with a team of people from OneChild, a group of Canadian youth with a shared passion to protect children from commercial sexual exploitation. In 2006, we were on a mission to uncover the truth and learn about how we might help turn the tables on the child sex trade.

At 21, I considered myself to be a seasoned child rights activist, having investigated the trade in Sri Lanka, posing as the decoy at the age of 16 in a sting to catch a sex offender. Despite this, I could never have anticipated the things that I would see and hear during the month I spent in the Philippines.

Local sights

To some of the international travellers who visit the Phillippines, Angeles City is Sin City. It is home to the Balibago entertainment district – a wild, untamed place where recreational sex is the sport of choice and anything goes, even if it involves children. The place is eerily reminiscent of a fun park, with flashing neon signs and deafening music, yet the fun is of a seedier kind.

Fields Avenue is a never-ending strip of go-go bars where young girls flash their wares underneath signs that read Dollhouse, Brown Sugar, the Cambodia Club, and Boys Night Out. Despite the pounding bass from inside the sex clubs, you can still hear the hawkers' sex-talk that lures in a steady stream of unaccompanied male tourists who purchase imitation Viagra™ from street sellers and move in and out of the clubs with small Filipinas under their arms.

Maryanne Salo used to be one of those bar girls. Fleeing a life of family abuse and poverty at 13, she took to the streets of Angeles where she was picked up by a pimp and brought to work as a bar girl on Fields Avenue. Maryanne believed she would work as a waitress, but was instead forced to gyrate in a bikini for Filipinos and foreigners who could pay a bar fee to take her out of the club and do with her whatever they wished. Rescued with five other minors in 2002, the club was raided at a key moment when she was about to be shipped to Japan to work as a prostitute.

At 17, Maryanne is back in the red-light district—this time for a different reason. Fully rehabilitated and now a staunch children's rights activist, she acted as my "tour guide" of the Angeles City sex trade.

"This is where I used to work," she said, stopping in front of the Viper Room club. "It used to be called the G-Spot. The mamasan [club manager] told me that I needed a birth certificate proving that I was 18 (Maryanne's aunt borrowed the birth certificate of a friend). There were many customers with different accents. They liked me because I was fair [skinned]."

When asked what happened after her rescue, Maryanne's explanation is brief: "The club was owned by a rich foreigner. I pressed charges and the club was shut down. Two weeks later it sprung up under the new name."

With an estimated 75,000 to 100,000 child victims of commercial sexual exploitation in the Philippines, the island nation ranks fourth in the world for child prostitution. There are various reasons for this.

The desperate financial situation faced by the population and exacerbated by the economic crisis in Asia has pushed impoverished girls into go-go bars and

A young bikini-clad bar girl sits in the lap of a western customer inside the Lollipop sex club in Balibago entertainment district, Angeles City.

clubs to service tourists, or to accept false employment offers in restaurants, promotion agencies and households in Metro Manila. They are then confined, drugged and forced to provide sexual services under the threat of violence.

This never-ending supply of girls escaping poverty, abuse and neglect fuels the demand of customers—mainly foreigners from China, Korea, Japan, western Europe, Australia and the United States, and locals who include police officers said to be regular customers.

Closely connected to child sex tourism, and more difficult to track, is the increasing production of child pornography in the Philippines. Tourists and resident foreigners provide money and gifts to families in exchange for their children who are sexually abused. The abuse is sometimes photographed or filmed and then sold, or distributed online. One senior police officer in the Philippines estimates there are between 50 and 75 cybersex dens in the country where webcams are used to broadcast children as young as 10.

Life-long injuries

For the children involved in the Filipino sex trade, the impacts vary according to each child's individual circumstances, but the physical, psychological, spiritual, emotional and social development problems can be life-long, or even life-threatening.

The case of 12-year-old Rosario Baluyot is a testament to this sad fact. Rosario, a street child, was abused by a foreign serviceman or doctor. It is not known who inserted an electric vibrator into her vaginal canal, which broke and left a five inch-long screw in her cervix. Rosario carried the screw in her body for nearly seven months until she was found dead on the street. Even in death, she has not seen justice. Her abuser still walks.

Inadequate laws, ineffective law enforcement, corruption, lack of resources and immature legal systems allow perpetrators to commit crimes with impunity against children like Maryanne and Rosario.

Extraterritorial legislation

Canada is one of 30 countries with extraterritorial legislation that provides the jurisdiction to prosecute its own nationals for sexual crimes beyond its borders. To date, Canada has convicted only one person under this law. In order to be effective, international co-operation and government investment in financial and human resources is needed to move past problems such as a lack of awareness and evidentiary obstacles.

Under the current extraterritorial legislation, Canada is hard-pressed to obtain evidence that will secure a conviction due to such factors as distance, problems identifying the location of the crime or the victims, language barriers and the time that has passed since the offence was committed.

These challenges are compounded by the fact that Canada does not conduct its own investigations of child sex abuse abroad. Rather, the foreign government in question must provide Canada with enough evidence to support a charge in order for a prosecution to be launched. Posting additional RCMP liaison officers in known child sex tourism destinations to conduct investigations and provide local police with the skill sets for their investigations may be one way to ease these problems.

More governments are being proactive in alerting the public, police and judiciaries of their legislation though awareness campaigns. Since 2004, for instance, the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Heath and Human Services have partnered with World Vision to create deterrent messages through public service announcements and billboards on airlines and in U.S. airports, magazines and newspapers, and through brochures in taxis and hotels where U.S. travellers tend to congregate. There have been more than 20 indictments and over a dozen convictions.

Conclusion

Our exploration of the child sex trade in the Philippines afforded us the opportunity to sit face-to-face with these children as they shared their stories of exploitation and abuse. We were fortunate to participate in the rescue of a 16-year-old bar girl and work with those who risk their lives every day to protect these children.

Spending time with these children gave us much to think about and our work continues because even if just one child can be saved, it will be worth the effort. ■

For more information, visit ***www.one-child.ca.***

The G-Spot club was shut down, only to spring up again within two weeks as the Viper Room club.

Courtesy of OneChild

Internet101

Web-proofing program a hit with educators

By Roxanne Ouellette

Roxanne Ouellette

From left, the Internet101 team in Ottawa includes Daniel Mulligan, Dana Townsend, Cpl Yvon Brault, Sgt Monique Beauchamp, and Insp Louise Lafrance.

There's never been a more important time than now to remind young people that the Internet is a fascinating world, but one they need to explore with caution.

This is the message that Internet101 has been promoting since it was created by RCMP members in Ottawa in 2004.

The idea of creating a police-driven Internet crime prevention tool was first discussed in late 2003 with other police partners including the Sûreté du Québec, Gatineau police and MRC des Collines. A few months later, the idea hit home when one of the RCMP's members, Cpl Yvon Brault, stumbled upon a popular website for teens where someone had posted scantily-clad snapshots and personal information. When Brault found that his daughter and her friends were using the site, he knew they were in danger of becoming targets of online predators.

Immediate demand

The joint committee of police forces came up with the concept for the Internet101.ca website – a glossy collection of safety tips, presentations and links to other government and police-approved resources. The website is geared toward youth and their parents.

As word spread within Ottawa-area communities that there was a police-driven Internet safety program in the works, interest from local educators began to grow. The Internet101 team received dozens of requests to make presentations, and the Ottawa Police Service, Ontario Provincial Police and Military Police joined the initiative.

Within just a few months, several schools in the Ottawa area encouraged their students to visit the website. Francine Beaudin, vice-principal of Beatrice Desloges Secondary School in Ottawa, added Internet101 to her school's regular curriculum.

"There is a real need in our schools for police-approved programs like Internet 101," says Beaudin. "I continue to encourage my teaching staff to use the program to help the students navigate the Internet with caution."

Last February in Gatineau, Internet 101 kicked off its national launch of Kit101, the hard-copy educational component of the website. The kit, aimed at children between 10 and 14 years old, was created to foster discussion between police, educators and youth. The unique cue cards, video and slide presentations provide police and educators with powerful visual tools on safe Internet use.

The content and material for both Internet101 and Kit101 were created with the assistance of subject-matter experts such as RCMP Sgt Robert Bisson, senior cybercrime instructor at the Canadian Police College, and the RCMP Integrated Tech Crime Unit in Ottawa. With their insight on Internet crime trends, Bisson and other policing partners helped shape key messages for Kit101. Other community members, government partners and stakeholders also provided input.

Kit101 was launched across Canada last winter. Two team members travelled to 11 cities, from Vancouver, BC to St. John's Newfoundland, reaching out to youth, educators and the media. As the team moved across the country, the number of hits to the Internet101 site spiked in February.

Paul Crawford, Superintendent of Education at Toronto Catholic District School Board, attended the Internet101 presentation in Toronto. Immediately after the presentation, he requested 200 copies of Kit101 to place in each school system under the supervision of elementary guidance councillors and the Safe School department.

The Halifax-area school board is looking to adopt Kit101 in its schools and spread the surf safely message, especially since Statistics Canada has found that 11- to 12-year-olds spend more time surfing the Internet than watching television. Furthermore, two-thirds of these kids use the Internet unsupervised.

"Protecting youth is one of the RCMP's priorities. Internet101's mandate is an important part of that," says A/Commr Ghyslaine Clement, Commanding Officer in Ottawa. "Internet101 was several years in the making. I am proud of the team's work, but especially proud that we are reaching out to youth in such a positive and effective manner." ■

The Internet101 kit can be downloaded at ***www.internet101.ca***. For more information, please call 1-613-993-5952.

Child exploitation on the Internet

The international perspective

By D/Sgt Michael Moran
Interpol Child Abuse Image Database

When Interpol was created back in 1923, those men—now staring out of a black and white photo in Interpol's archives—could never in their wildest dreams have imagined the challenges faced by modern policing services worldwide.

They could not have imagined the mobility of world citizens, where people no longer care for national boundaries and borders. Most of all, they could never have imagined the organized gangs of criminals facilitating the systematic sexual abuse of children nor disseminating that abuse all over the world. They could not have imagined it, but the foundations they laid down for police co-operation and mutual assistance are as valid today as they were back then.

In the area of offences against children, in the vast majority of cases, sexual abuse is a situational crime perpetrated by family members or acquaintances. So what is the international angle here? Why should Interpol get involved?

The answer to that question changed drastically in 1995 with the mass usage of the Internet. As the Internet became increasingly popular, the appearance of child abuse images also became more widespread. Strong and decisive police action was required and those who understood the international nature of the Internet knew straight away that co-operation had to move to new levels.

Once legislation was enacted, police worldwide began prosecuting those who possessed and distributed child abuse images, but there was a bigger picture. Some units, notably in Scandinavia, the U.K. and Canada, began to realize they had a duty to identify the children in these images. It was here that they faced the biggest challenge: the international angle.

Created in 2001, the Interpol Child Abuse Image Database proved itself to be a huge asset in the field of victim identification. The database grew very quickly from just 33 identified victims in the first year to more than 500 by the beginning of 2007.

A communications network was developed in parallel with the database. Officers working in child abuse image units in a number of countries use this encrypted network to share tips, technologies and intelligence. The network allows the real-time analysis of images and movies as they appear online. Previously unseen images posted to the Internet can be immediately examined by specialists to try and identify where the abuse took place.

The results can be spectacular. Images and movies found during investigations in one country can solve crimes that took place in another. Investigators can immediately establish whether an image they have has ever been seen before, saving hundreds of hours of police time trying to locate a victim that has already been identified.

While there have been huge improvements, there are still law enforcement agencies that fail to examine images discovered on seized computers or to share images with colleagues to verify if they have been seen before.

There are simple technical processes that can be put in place to improve matters. For instance, massive seizures of images can be triaged down to a very small number of unknown images very quickly and then resources concentrated on these, as is being done in countries such as Canada and Germany.

What of the future?

The Child Abuse Image Database will soon evolve into the International Child Exploitation Database, with pilot projects in a number of countries due to start later in 2007. This database will give approved national police units direct access to the international database using the secure Interpol I-24/7 network. This access should help bring mutual effort to a new level in finding and rescuing victims.

International police co-operation in this area is generally impressive, with dedicated officers in many countries dealing with the most horrific abuse material to launch investigations, rescue children and lock up sexual criminals. However, there are still too many police agencies that are not working internationally.

The need for global action in protecting the innocence of the next generation cannot be overstated. While there have been significant advances, the old school reports I used to get spring to mind: "...doing well, but could do better." ■

D/Sgt Michael Moran joined An Garda Siochana in Ireland in 1990. He has worked as an investigator in domestic violence, sexual assault and Internet child pornography cases. Moran is currently on secondment at the Interpol Child Abuse Image Database.

Seeking comfort

Psychological support helps child exploitation investigators

By Gilles M. Ouimet and Capt Gervais Ouellet
Sûreté du Québec, Montreal

The Sûreté du Québec (Quebec's provincial police) created its cybersurveillance and look-out unit in 2001. Initially manned by one police officer and one civilian professional, the unit has since grown to include a team of nine police officers and one civilian.

In partnership with Canadian and international investigation services, its investigation and verification activities target all offences committed over the Internet. According to statistics for 2005, crimes against personal integrity account for 82 per cent of investigations, with online child pornography representing about 74 per cent.

In an effort to curb the harmful effects of cyberpornographic material on officers, the Sûreté du Québec (SQ) has set up a specialized psychological unit where investigators can turn for assistance when they need it.

Emotional stress

Viewing images and videos of child sexual assault, sometimes against infants, for several hours a day can be the psychological equivalent of ongoing trauma. If no psychological support is provided to investigators, the long-term psycho-emotional repercussions of viewing the violent sexual nature of this material can negatively impact their personal, family and professional lives.

Three key factors make it possible for this program, run by a clinical psychologist, to eliminate the obstacles inherent to many employee assistance programs (limited number of consultations, unknown consultants assigned to patients, making it difficult to click).

First of all, the consulting psychologist must successfully complete a rigorous selection process. At the SQ, the psychologist joined the team only after meeting with and being "tested" by other team members. For the team to bond with the psychologist, the latter had to prove he had the necessary skills, interest, flexibility and understanding of both the problems facing officers and the policing culture.

Second, the psychologist prepared a service agreement, which was revised by team members to the satisfaction of all parties.

And third, the agreement—which includes a description of program goals and techniques—provides for a mandatory minimum of two annual consultations with all police officers, as well as an unlimited number of interviews at the request of officers, either individually or in a group setting.

Support close at hand

This psychological support unit includes three other key components: confidentiality, emergency situation and zero wait time.

Confidentiality means that the consulting psychologist will not disclose the content of his consultations unless required to do so by law. Nor shall he produce any document or make any comments in favour or against a police officer at the request of the employer or union.

An emergency refers to any situation of unbearable stress that sparks the psychological imbalance of a police officer and seriously affects his or her work and personal life. Triggers can relate to work duties or environment, interpersonal conflicts, living conditions or relationships at or outside work.

In his meetings with police officers, the psychologist works with them to define strategies to both prevent and, as required, deal with such emergency situations. In some cases, the consulting psychologist may consider that a situation is of sufficient concern that he will advise an officer to inform his or her superior of a problem that seriously affects the individual's work performance, but the psychologist cannot force an officer to do so.

In extreme cases, the consulting psychologist—like any other health professional—has a moral and legal obligation to take necessary action to assist or rescue persons in imminent danger.

Lastly, since extreme fatigue and stress are often an integral part of investigative work, the psychologist is available for consultations or emergency situations with no wait time. This program works well because officers know their consultant is always there for them.

In terms of the emotional stress experienced by cybersurveillance and look-out unit members, it is psychologically easier for police officers to be in a position where they can intervene when a crime is being committed as opposed to being passive witnesses unable to put an

immediate end to the situation.

Human nature is such that it is easier to control intense stress or trauma (accidents, disasters or assault) when we are able to act or defend ourselves or others than when we are forced to remain powerless in the face of an event as it unfolds. In addition, child cyberpornography investigators sometimes experience stress (consciously or not) when they personally identify with a victim or identify their children (current or not yet born) with the victim.

The fact that victims are often very young children makes it that much more disturbing. The problem is that these feelings can be experienced unconsciously. For instance, officers may not know that the material they view is having an emotional impact on them. When asked about it, they respond that they are able to deal with it and it does not bother them. But in some cases, they are being affected without even realizing it.

In such situations, the consulting psychologist intervenes as follows:

- he provides psychological support and a moral legitimacy for the work of police officers forced to deal with internal and external obstacles in the performance of their duties
- he promotes awareness and the expression of feelings and emotions that could lead to psychological symptoms and conflicts
- he offers support to the roles and functions of team members to reinforce their pride in their work
- he fosters problem-solving and tension resolution within the team

The psychological support program within the SQ's cybersurveillance and lookout unit is a success because of the strong bond of trust that team members have developed over the years with the consulting psychologist, who has demonstrated his interest and availability, his understanding of police work, and the willingness to adjust his intervention techniques to meet their specific needs. ■

Supporting mental health and wellness—nationally

Imagine spending day after day watching horrific images of children being sexually abused. This is the world of investigators working in the area of Internet-facilitated child sexual exploitation. Repeated exposure to these images has the potential to significantly affect those who choose to work in this important area of policing.

"There is no question that investigators are affected by seeing children being sexually abused and tortured," says Supt Earla-Kim McColl, officer in charge of the Canadian Child Exploitation Coordination Centre (NCECC). "It is impossible for an investigator to not be affected by seeing these images. Fifty per cent of the files that come through our office involve children under the age of nine, and 80 per cent depict sexual penetration."

The impacts of seeing thousands of these images are not yet clear and will differ depending on the individual investigator. Investigators want to rescue the children in the images and some may identify with the victims or identify the victim with their own children. Effects include hopelessness, frustration, anxiety, anger, sadness and stress.

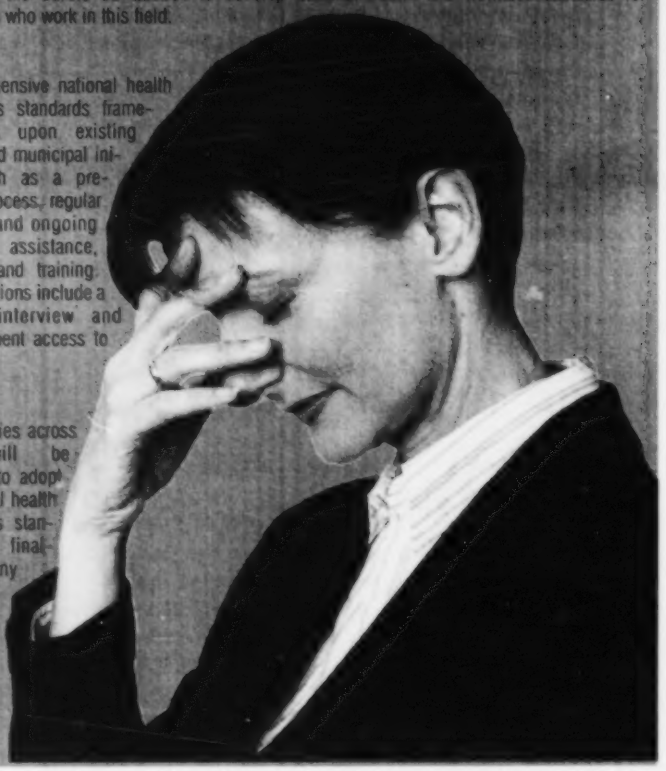
As Canada's national centre, the NCECC helps develop policy and provides many levels of support to investigators dealing with Internet-facilitated child sexual exploitation.

The NCECC has facilitated an initiative with the RCMP, the Ontario Provincial Police, Toronto Police Service and the Sûreté du Québec to develop national health and wellness standards for investigators who work in this field.

The comprehensive national health and wellness standards framework draws upon existing provincial and municipal initiatives such as a prescreening process, regular interviews, and ongoing access to assistance, information and training. Two key additions include a departure interview and post-assignment access to assistance.

Police agencies across Canada will be encouraged to adopt these national health and wellness standards once finalized. Many already have.

—Michelle Rose



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Supporting mental health and wellness—nationally

Imagine spending day after day watching horrific images of children being sexually abused. That is the world of investigators working in the area of Internet-facilitated child sexual exploitation. Repeated exposure to these images has the potential to significantly affect those who choose to work in this important area of policing.

"There is no question that investigators are affected by seeing children being sexually abused and tortured," says Supt Earla-Kim McColl, officer in charge of the National Child Exploitation Coordination Centre (NCECC). "It is impossible for an investigator to not be affected by seeing these images. Fifty per cent of the files that come through our office involve children under the age of nine, and 80 per cent depict sexual penetration."

The impacts of seeing thousands of these images are not yet clear and will differ depending on the individual investigator. Investigators want to rescue the children in the images and some may identify with the victims or identify the victim with their own children. Effects include hopelessness, frustration, anxiety, anger, sadness and stress.

As Canada's national centre, the NCECC helps develop policy and provides many levels of support to investigators dealing with Internet-facilitated child sexual exploitation.

The NCECC has facilitated an initiative with the RCMP, the Ontario Provincial Police, Toronto Police Service and the Sûreté du Québec to develop national health and wellness standards for investigators who work in this field.

The comprehensive national health and wellness standards framework draws upon existing provincial and municipal initiatives such as a prescreening process, regular interviews, and ongoing access to assistance, information and training. Two key additions include a departure interview and post-assignment access to assistance.

Police agencies across Canada will be encouraged to adopt these national health and wellness standards once finalized. Many already have.

—Michelle Rose

Identifying international research gaps in Internet child sexual exploitation

By Roberta Sinclair, Ph.D., Ethel Quayle, Ph.D., Merlyn Horton and Tink Palmer

The sexual exploitation of children[1] is not a new phenomenon. What has changed, however, are the methods through which some adults engage in these offences. Recent global studies suggest that children make up a considerable portion of Internet users[2]. While it is important not to demonize the Internet, we must continue to critically assess the impacts of technology.

Images, videos and other depictions of child sexual abuse are being produced, distributed, collected and viewed around the world through the Internet and other technologies. The Internet is also being used as a safe haven for adults with sexual interests in children to encourage them to engage in sexual activities online (for example, live chat via webcams), to lure them into physical meetings for sexual purposes, to promote child sex tourism and for other forms of sexual exploitation.

While research in the U.S.[3,4] has challenged many of the stereotypes about such offenders, particularly in relation to age and online identity, adolescents who engage in online risk-taking are especially vulnerable to sexual abuse by older youth and adults. Although these abuses occur both online and offline, evolving technologies provide new vehicles for such abuses and introduce many new challenges.

The World Forum on Child Welfare Conference illustrated the need for international experts to collaborate on these issues. The conference provided a forum for international members of the academic, law enforcement and human-services providers community to look at research gaps and collaborative response strategies in the area of Internet-facilitated child sexual exploitation. Three primary areas emerged.

Victim service needs

While the Internet contains many sexualized images of children that are not illegal, a review of illegal images held by a Canadian police agency found that adult-child sexual penetration images were predominantly depicted, with the abused children well under 18. Identifying and rescuing these children is a high priority for several countries.

International law enforcement strategies are gaining momentum as can be seen in many of the recent cases involving global networks of offenders. Interpol, Europol and the Virtual Global Taskforce demonstrate how countries are collaborating on identification efforts.

By engaging in research that further supports these efforts, we can better understand how offenders identify and groom victims, and further explore the various interconnections that increase or decrease the levels of victim risk. As well, community-support strategies for the victim are imperative. Counselling and risk assessment practices must incorporate questions about children's online activities and virtual lives to determine whether a child has been sexually exploited online or physically abused.

Evidence of good practice in providing such services is starting to emerge, such as the collaborative work between child support services and police in Huddinge Province, Sweden. But at the present time, there is limited training of service providers regarding the specific needs of victims of Internet-facilitated sexual exploitation. Researchers are struggling to identify the differences and similarities in terms of service need between non-Internet and Internet sexual abuse survivor care, and what specific support is required.[5]

Awareness of offenders

A noted gap exists in our understanding of offenders who employ Internet-based techniques to engage in adult-child sexual exploitation. The following questions should be addressed:

- What are the characteristics of offenders who sexually exploit children solely through the Internet?
- How do Internet offenders differ from contact offenders?
- Do chat sites, bulletin boards and websites that support adult-child sexual interest encourage and legitimize pro-abuse ideologies?
- Do these sites increase the risk of contact offending?

The research in this area is growing, but

much of our knowledge is still based on incarcerated sexual offenders.[6] Examining Internet offenders may expose the differences between this group and sexual offenders who do not use the Internet to abuse children.

Previous research indicates that affiliation with all-male peer groups that espouse pro-abuse ideologies can legitimize male-to-female violence in intimate relationships.[7,8] It would be interesting to determine if such associations exist in online groups that focus on adults with sexual interests in children. Future research could uncover the most effective methods of addressing this growing area of crime, advance the education and prevention efforts, and become part of the discussions on how to manage these offenders in our communities.[9]

Universal threats to children

Children today are wired—their social space typically includes online networking sites, blogs and chat rooms.[10] This exposure to the online experience offers numerous benefits but there are also drawbacks.

Internet spaces provide opportunities for children to come into contact with new people who they may never otherwise meet. In some cases these online friends include adults. Historically parents were the ones who introduced their children to adults, often friends of the parents. The geographical neighbourhood defined one's potential friend pool. Today parents are often unaware of their child's "friends." Chat rooms, bulletin boards and social networking sites can operate as virtual meeting places and facilitate the luring of children for sexual purposes.

Of significant concern is the Internet's role in contributing to the sexualization and eroticization of children. The Internet has increased the probability of children being exposed to sexually explicit material.[11] Advances in technology such as the Internet, satellite and pay per view now bring these materials into many homes.

The impact that this increased exposure will have on the sexual and emotional development of children remains largely unknown. As well, increased access to child pornography also introduces avenues of access to illegal material. A study of Internet chat rooms in 2001 indicated that several suspects in a Greater Manchester Police Child Abuse Images Unit project were under the age of 18, with some as young as 13.[12] Cases of children who access illegal images of similar-aged children will require some debate as to what response is appropriate.

There are several future research projects affiliated with these three areas of priority. But to be effective, these projects need to be multi-disciplinary and multi-jurisdictional in nature, and should incorporate the realities and perspectives of children.

In 2005, ECPAT International[13] submitted a report to the UN Study of Violence Against Children that reinforced that all children – regardless of cultural or ethnic background, age and socio-economic status—are potentially vulnerable, and all professionals must take ownership of the problem. Response strategies need to be global in composition and must include experts from various sectors, including academics, law enforcement and human-service providers.

As avid users of the Internet, children need to be educated and empowered to be "critical thinkers" and encouraged to be active users rather than passive consumers. Initiatives in this area must be developed with the input of children to be successful; involvement often leads to ownership. ■

Dr. Roberta Sinclair is the manager of research and development at the National Child Exploitation Coordination Centre, RCMP and an adjunct professor in the Sociology and Anthropology Department and the Institute for Criminology and Criminal Justice at Carleton University.

Dr. Ethel Quayle, COPINE (Combating Paedophile Information Networks in Europe) Department of Applied Psychology, University College Cork, Cork, Ireland.

Merlyn Horton, founder and Executive Director of the Safe OnLine Outreach Society in British Columbia, is a former youth worker with high-risk, street entrenched and sexually exploited youth.

Tink Palmer is the Director of Stop it Now UK and Ireland. She has written widely on issues pertaining to the sexual abuse of children, including children abused via the new technologies.

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The importance of using open-ended questions when interviewing children

By Martine B. Powell
School of Psychology,
Deakin University, Australia

The act of eliciting reliable and detailed information from a child about abuse is a complex process that requires highly specialized skills in interviewing. While the outcome of any investigative interview is determined by a wide range of factors (see Ceci, Powell, & Principe, 2002), one of the best predictors of reliable child witness evidence is a good initial investigative interview. The more complete and accurate the initial investigative interview, the more complete and accurate the child's story during examination. A complete and accurate account, in turn, makes the child's account in cross-examination less susceptible to distortion.

There is clear international consensus regarding what constitutes a best practice in an investigative interview with a child. The central aim is to obtain an account of the event or situation in the child's own words, with as little specific prompting as possible from the interviewer (Poole & Lamb, 1998; Wilson & Powell, 2001). Such an account, referred to as a free-narrative account, generally proceeds with the interviewer asking a broad open-ended question ("Tell me everything you can remember about . . . Start at the beginning. What was the first thing that happened?").

The interviewer then uses minimal non-verbal encouragers (head nods, pauses, "Mmmm," silence, "Uh-Huh") and further open-ended questions ("Tell me more about that." "What happened then?" "What else can you remember about . . . ?") to steer the interviewee to the next point in the story or to gently encourage the interviewee to provide more narrative information.

Once the child has reached the end of their story, the interviewer usually guides them back to specific parts of the narrative and provides them with the opportunity for further recall ("You said Billy touched you. Tell me more about that."). The importance of these prompts is that they are general. Open-ended questions encourage elaborate responses and allow interviewees the flexibility to choose which aspects of the event they will describe (Powell and Snow, 2007). In contrast, specific questions ask about a specific detail or concept, and can usually be answered in one or two words.

The benefits

There are four benefits of eliciting a free narrative compared to more focused or brief responses.

First, responses to open-ended questions are usually more accurate than responses to specific or closed questions (Dent & Stephenson, 1979). The greater accuracy of open-ended questions may occur because the resulting free-narrative format allows the witness to use a more stringent metacognitive level of control, or because the retrieval process is less influenced by external contamination by the interviewer, for instance (Roberts, 2000).

Second, specific questions can lead interviewers to underestimate the witness's language limitations, especially when the witness adopts strategies to cover up language limitations (Snow & Powell, 2004). For example, interviewees may repeat back phrases or words used by the interviewer, provide stereotypical responses or give affirmative answers to yes/no questions even if they do not understand the questions.

Third, open-ended questioning, which is conducted at the child's own pace, allows the child time to collect his or her thoughts and consequently promotes elaborate memory retrieval.

Finally, the act of formulating many short-answer questions also takes its toll on interviewers because it directs limited mental resources to formulating many

questions rather than listening intently to the witness's responses to open-ended questions (Fisher, & McCauley, 1995). It is not surprising that interviewers who ask fewer but open-ended questions elicit the greatest amount of information from witnesses (Sternberg et al., 1996).

The reality

Unfortunately, research indicates that most professionals do not obtain free-narrative accounts from children. Evaluation studies across the globe have concluded that interviews tend to contain predominantly short-answer questions with few pauses and an excessive number of closed and leading questions (see Powell, Fisher & Wright, 2005 for review). The difficulty interviewers experience in adhering to best practice reflects a broad array of issues.

First, conceptual principles underlying best-practice guidelines in interviewing children do not seem to be well understood and reinforced within police organizations (Wright, Powell & Ridge, in press). A lack of good role models and quality supervision within police orgaaizations in forensic interviewing is a global problem that has been highlighted by many international experts in this area.

Second, high workload impacts on interviewers' ability to practise their skills, to attend professional development training programs and to seek feedback from colleagues.

Third, training programs in investigative interviewing are often not structured in a way that promotes and can sustain expertise in forensic interviewing. Practice needs to be distributed over time (Lamb et al., 2002), yet most training programs are structured so that participants learn about the process of interviewing over a single intensive session spanning one or several days.

Research is still in its infancy and more work is needed to define the precise way in which practice and feedback should be delivered. At present, expert trainers emphasize the need for more effective collaboration between key stakeholders, greater recognition that forensic interviewing is a specialist skill, more effective supervision and monitoring of forensic interviewing practice within the workplace, and the need for police organizations to engage in collaborative research projects that examine how expertise in forensic interviewing is learned and sustained (Powell, Wright and Clarke, 2007).

One critical step for researchers and police organizations is to develop a system for implementing practice and feedback in an ongoing, effective and affordable manner. Work-based training models need to be developed where learning is viewed as a routine and natural experience at work and is team based. Such a model aligns with the move by some expert trainers to provide online training programs in interviewing. Online training is not intended to replace face-to-face supervision. Rather, it offers an additional cost-effective way for trainees to become familiar (in a flexible, private learning environment) with the types of questions and concepts that promote a free-narrative account from child witnesses. ■

Professor Martine Powell, PhD, is a leading expert in the area of child eyewitness testimony and investigative interviewing. She has authored more than 80 publications, including the book A Guide to Interviewing Children (Allen & Unwin/Routledge). She has also developed a fully online (distance education) course entitled "Advanced Practice in Forensic Interviewing of Children"

For more information, please contact: ***martine.powell@deakin.edu.au .***

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Just the facts

Identity fraud involves stealing, misrepresenting or hijacking the identity of another person or business, and provides an effective means to commit other crimes. It is one of the fastest growing areas of criminal activity worldwide. From fishing through garbage bins for discarded personal information to phishing online, there are a number of ways these criminals can take advantage of everyday people who are not careful enough. Here is a snapshot.

In the United States, complaints to the Federal Trade Commission over identity fraud, known as identity theft in the U.S., increased five-fold from 31,117 in 2000 to 161,819 in 2002.

In 2002, Canadians suffered a loss of almost $12 million to phone fraud, over $7 million of which occurred in Ontario. In 2003, the national figures almost doubled to a total loss of almost $22 million.

In the U.K., the Criminal Justice Act of 2003 changed the law to align the penalty for fraudulently obtaining a driving licence with that for fraudulently obtaining a passport. Both offences are now arrestable.

Identity fraud was estimated by the Australian Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department in 2001 to cost citizens in that country more than $4 billion (AU) per year.

The emotional impact on victims of identity fraud is likened to that felt by victims of more violent crime, including rape, violent assault and repeated battering. Some victims feel dirty, defiled, ashamed and embarrassed, and undeserving of assistance.

According to the U.S. Department of Justice Statistics, identity fraud is now surpassing drug trafficking as the number one crime in the United States.

The Canadian Council of Better Business Bureaus estimates the cost of identity fraud to consumers, banks, credit card firms, stores and other businesses at $2.5 billion annually.

The Home Office Identity Fraud Steering Committee has estimated that identity fraud costs the U.K. economy £1.7 billion per year.

In 2005, the U.S. Justice Department charged 226 defendants with aggravated identity fraud. In the first half of 2006, the U.S. Justice Department charged 432 defendants with the same crime.

According to the Anti-Phishing Working Group, a U.S.-based corporation that serves as a public and industry resource for phishing and e-mail fraud, a total of 23,670 phishing websites were found in July 2006 compared to just 4,564 in July 2005.

In 2002, American victims of identity fraud suffered financial losses of $4,800 on average for an estimated total of $47.6 billion (U.S.).

Law enforcement agencies are reporting a higher volume of identity theft cases. In Waco, Texas, there was a 700-per-cent increase between 2004 and 2005.

In the U.K., the Identity Cards Act 2006 created new criminal offences for being in possession of or controlling false identity documents, including genuine documents that have been improperly obtained.

Cross-border operation takes aim at organized crime

By S/Sgt. Steve Wright
High Level Detachment and
Cst Dale Stewart
Fort Smith Detachment

Courtesy High Level Detachment

S/Sgt Steve Wright holds up the four bags of marijuana in the largest seizure made during Operation Gobble. These drugs were destined for the NWT.

At first glance, one might think that Northern Alberta and Northwest Territories (NWT) are immune or removed from the drug trade and organized crime groups. Once believed to exist only in the "big cities," these communities are now witnessing and falling victim to the rapid expansion and growth of organized crime groups and a lucrative drug industry.

For several reasons, these groups see northern communities as lucrative and valuable places to do business. In most cases, their product is being sold for double the price than in the south. The chance of being detected or caught by police is relatively low because the vast, sparse geographical area of the North is not matched with a higher proportion of police officers to enforce it. Moreover, many northern communities are reaping the benefits from the oil, gas and diamond mining industries, translating into more disposable cash for drugs.

In August 2006, RCMP members from both Alberta and NWT, and their respective divisional Criminal Analysis Sections and Federal Drug Sections, held an intelligence meeting to identify targets and groups operating in both divisions.

In many cases, both were working on the same individuals and organized crime groups. Police were treating the border as a line drawn in the sand and working separately, while the criminals were sharing intelligence and techniques, and co-ordinating the transportation of drugs across the Alberta /NWT border.

Another positive by-product from the co-operation between the two divisions was the simple dismantling of the border from a law enforcement perspective.

For some time, three detachments—High Level, Alberta, Fort Smith, NWT and Hay River, NWT—had been sharing intelligence and conducting extensive Controlled Drugs and Substances Act work in their respective detachment areas, but had never met in person.

Through a co-ordinated effort and effective use of integrated resources, the three detachments developed an operation plan with four objectives: seize illegal contraband; identify the individuals and organized crime groups responsible; report the findings and create a linkage chart between the two divisions; and provide safer roads, homes and communities.

Each detachment and support unit agreed to pay for its individual involvement. This commitment was integral to the success of the project as no additional funding was requested from the district or division budgets.

The joint operation—called Operation Gobble because it fell over the Canadian Thanksgiving weekend—began Oct. 5 and lasted four days. It employed detachment members and support units such as Traffic Services, Federal Drug Sections and Police Service Dogs Sections from both divisions working both sides of the border. More than 25 police units monitored and enforced Highway 35 in Alberta and Highways 1, 2, 3 and 5 in the NWT.

Results

As a result, eight organized crime groups—the Crazy Dragons, Crazy Dragon Killers, Hells Angels, Alberta Warriors, Indian Posse, King Pin Bloods, and Lebanese and Turkish organized crime—were identified and connected to the seizures made during the operation.

In addition, police executed three search warrants, laid nine drug charges, made more than 20 seizures of contraband, handed out more than 100 traffic tickets, and made an estimated 500 police-officer-to-vehicle contacts.

Another positive by-product from the co-operation between the two divisions was the simple dismantling of the border from a law enforcement perspective. Criminals who possess outstanding warrants and choose to flee provincial and territorial jurisdictions have seen applications for their warrants extended. As a result of better face-to-face co-operation between police and a more co-ordinated effort, those individuals are being held accountable for their crimes and returned to the jurisdiction they have fled. ■

The CSI effect and the Canadian jury

By Janne A. Holmgren
and Heather M. Pringle
Mount Royal College, Calgary

Ever since the hit television show *CSI: Crime Scene Investigation* debuted in 2000 (including its spin-offs), prosecutors and law enforcement agencies have speculated that this show has given jurors heightened expectations for what sorts of evidence would be presented at trial.

The study supports the notion that regular viewing of crime-related television influences the population's opinions of the criminal justice process.

This so-called *CSI* effect includes the increased and unrealistic expectation that every crime scene will yield plentiful forensic samples that can be analyzed by near-infallible forensic science techniques and will be presented as such in the courtroom.

The popularity of these shows has influenced how the defence and prosecution present their cases as discussed anecdotally in the North American media. However, little scientific research exists specifically on the *CSI* effect and the Canadian juror. This article will focus on some of the results of a survey given to 605 jury-eligible individuals asking specific questions related to popular crime-related television shows, including *CSI*.

Studying the CSI effect

The participants in this study were all college students who would be considered jury eligible under the *Alberta Jury Act*. Each participant had to read a document outlining their eligibility and sign a consent form for participation. Each survey was completed anonymously and sealed in an envelope. Most of the people surveyed had no experience with criminal trials other than 51 respondents (8.4 per cent) who had attended a criminal trial and two people (0.30 per cent) who said they had served on a jury.

A large number of participants surveyed (74.9 per cent) stated they watch crime-related television shows on a regular basis. Only 17.7 per cent of respondents said they watched no crime-related television per week, while 75.9 per cent fell between the categories of one to six hours per week. The most popular crime-related shows among the participants were *CSI* (and its spinoffs) and *Law and Order*. Most respondents (71 per cent) said they learned about DNA evidence mostly from the media (newspapers, news and crime television shows).

The survey shed light on some prevailing attitudes towards crime-scene investigation. Responses to various questions indicated the importance that people put on forensic evidence. For example, 76.1 per cent responded that DNA testing is the best piece of evidence in any type of case. In addition, 83.5 per cent responded that DNA evidence should always be used in sexual assault

cases. Some respondents (27.4 per cent) agreed that since computers and other state-of-the-art technology is used in forensic testing, human errors and corruption are unlikely to take place.

Some responses related to whether a participant stated that they regularly watched crime-related television or not.

The study supports the notion that regular viewing of crime-related television influences the population's opinions of the criminal justice process. For example, 23 per cent of respondents who said they regularly watch crime-related television shows strongly agreed that DNA testing is the best piece of evidence against an accused in any case. Out of those who responded that they do not watch crime-related television shows regularly, only 12.6 per cent stated that DNA testing is the best piece of evidence against an accused in any type of case.

The survey asked potential jurors if they thought time of death was easy to determine. Many respondents (50.3 per cent) said that based on the television show *CSI*, they think time of death is easily determined. In reality, many factors in crime scene investigation can influence the degree of difficulty for determining the time of death.

Another difference between those who said they watched crime-related television regularly and those who said they did not was in their opinions towards this subject. Regular watchers of crime-related television were much more likely to agree that the time of death is easily determined (57.2 per cent) as opposed to 29.8 per cent of those who said they do not watch these programs. The responses to this question support the notion that those who regularly watch crime-related television more often have an incorrect belief that crime-scene investigation easily yields concrete results.

The popularity of *CSI* and similar television shows seems to have an effect on some peoples' perceptions of forensic evidence presented in court.

Among regular watchers of crime-related television, 19.7 per cent agreed that forensic science is capable of solving any criminal case, whereas among those who did not watch crime-related television regularly only 10.7 per cent agreed. On this issue, regular crime-related television watchers were more likely to err in their beliefs about forensic science.

There were some questions in which respondents who said they watched television on a regular basis and those who said they did not had similar percentages of certain responses. For example, agreement with the statement that DNA evidence should always be used in sexual assault cases was similar for both groups: 80.7 per cent among the regular watchers of crime-related television and 84.6 per cent for the non-watchers. The majority of respondents actually overestimate the relevance of DNA evidence in all sexual assault cases.

Educating jurors

The survey data indicates some possible ways to make understanding DNA evidence less complicated. For example, 41.5 per cent of respondents agreed that DNA evidence would be easier to understand if an expert simply said that the odds are extremely slim of finding a match in the general population.

Another factor for Crown prosecution to consider is that 73.1 per cent of those surveyed said that if they were a juror, they would find it difficult to convict someone of a crime if there was no forensic evidence available. This stresses the need for jurors to be educated about reasons why forensic evidence is not always available and untainted. Further, jurors need to be aware of the validity and potential usefulness of other types of evidence.

The study showed some important differences in the population of potential jurors who identified as regular watchers of crime-related television as opposed to those who did not. The popularity of *CSI* and similar television shows seems to have an effect on some peoples' perceptions of forensic evidence presented in court. On the other hand, the overall study population also tended to put ample weight on the importance of forensic science in certain situations such as sexual assault cases. Further, the study of eligible jurors makes criminal justice professionals aware of the need for juror education in specific areas of forensic science. ■

Janne Holmgren, PhD, is a full-time instructor of Justice Studies at Mount Royal College, Calgary. Heather Pringle is a recent graduate of the Justice Studies program.

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Worrying trends in art crime

By Charles Hill

Art crime is any property crime with one or more works of art as its focal point. In our age, art is what you want it to be—and what you can get away with convincing others it is.

Most incidents of art crime are not committed by violent theft during robberies nor by burglary, but from thefts by deception. These thefts include any in which fraud, fakes, forgery or false attribution takes place, and they are the big money spinners.

Violent art thefts are relatively rare compared to thefts by deception. Once in a blue moon people do make money out of high-profile heists but, essentially, violent art crime is a game in which everyone loses.

Most successful and professional art thieves are smooth-talking tricksters. Art thefts by family members, employees and opportunists tend to be serious annoyances, usually covered by insurance. All such crimes will continue as long as art remains an enticement for avarice, an exercise in power and generator of excitement.

Art and violence

Violent art crime, however, is obviously different in its intensity, and it needs to be curbed. Most violent criminals enjoy the self-esteem, self-regard and self-indulgence they feel when committing high-profile art crimes on specific occasions. They tend to commit these crimes when police resources are stretched, for the obvious reason that they don't want to get caught.

Here are five examples of high-profile art crimes that have taken place in the past two decades:

- The theft of the original version of Edvard Munch's *Scream* stolen from the National Gallery in Oslo on the first day of the 1994 Winter Olympics in Lillehammer, Norway.
- The theft of a portrait attributed to Rembrandt called *Rembrandt's Mother* from Wilton House, Wiltshire in England on Guy Fawkes /Bonfire Night, November 5, 1994.
- The theft of Titian's *Rest on the Flight into Egypt* and two other 16th century paintings from Longleat House, Wiltshire on Twelfth Night, January 6, 1995.
- The theft of the Ashmolean Museum's only Cezanne at Oxford University on Millennium Eve, 2000.
- The armed robbery at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston, Mass. on the night of St. Patrick's Day 1990 in which several Rembrandts, a Vermeer and other highly significant works of art were stolen.

To those examples we can add three violent art thefts committed by Eastern European gangsters:

- The armed robbery of versions of Munch's *Scream* and *Madonna* paintings from the Munch Museum in Oslo in August 2004 by Norwegian criminals working on behalf of Balkan bandits, specifically Kosovar Albanians.
- The armed robbery of a Rembrandt and two Renoirs from the National Museum of Sweden in Stockholm in December 2000. Again, this was a crime instigated by Balkan bandits, specifically Kosovar Albanians.
- The armed robbery of two Turners stolen in July 1994 from an exhibition at the Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt while on loan from Tate Britain, the national gallery of British art in London. The theft revealed a trail that led back to a Serbian gang and its leader, Arkan. His own people later assassinated him for political reasons.

In all three latter examples, the paintings have been recovered. A substantial monetary reward was paid for the two Turners (although not for a third painting stolen at the same time). The Albanian Norwegian gangster who instigated the *Scream* and *Madonna* armed robbery in 2004 is currently appealing.

Organized gangs

Although there are many art crimes that are unrelated to organized criminal gangs, the notoriety of the ones mentioned above means that we should probably prepare for more. These are not lunatics operating to the phases of the moon, but gangsters who see specific opportunities for crime when their profiles and vanities can receive a boost from specific occasions and places, and when they think the police will be otherwise engaged.

If a cut stone is a work of art, the attempted armed robbery in 2002 to steal a collection of gems including the 203-carat Millennium Star diamond at the Millennium Dome in London, England is another example of the attraction of art crime to calculating minds. Although foiled by police, those thieves derived inspiration from a James Bond film. They smashed into the dome with a bulldozer and planned to escape in a speedboat across the river Thames.

Even worse was the destruction in Afghanistan of the great Bamiyan Buddha statues by the Taliban in 2001 and the earlier looting and destruction of the Kabul Museum by various Afghan groups, including the Taliban. There is a constant threat to religious works of art from religious groups who regard themselves as iconoclastic purifiers of faith.

In 2005, while looking for very valuable stolen property from the counties surrounding London, I asked a notorious Irish traveller in the West of England called Jimmy Johnson if he had seen any signs of Balkan bandits coming to England to steal works of art. His reply was interesting. He said that two Albanians had visited his caravan site some weeks earlier and asked him if they could run with his family in drugs crime and major house burglaries. He told me he said no to them because he was trying to get his family away from those activities. Then, he said, they asked him if he wanted anyone killed, to which he replied that if he needed someone to do that, he would do it himself.

The significance of Johnson's responses is that the newer organized criminal groups in England work to a different code of conduct than the typical people who commit violent art crimes in the British Isles. Whether Albanian, Somalian or a member of any organized crime group, these criminals are likely to be increasingly violent and remorseless because they often come from societies more violent than contemporary English society. For them, art crime will be an easy option once they have the motivation and opportunity, the infrastructure and the right criminal contacts.

The most serious art theft since the Second World War was the robbery at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston, 17 years ago. My view is that the stolen paintings were shipped to Halifax, Nova Scotia, then containerized and sent to Limerick, Ireland. All of that may have been organized by a remnant of the Winter Hill gang in Boston. Joe Murray, its leader at the time, was shot dead by his wife at their summer house near the New Brunswick–Maine border. She subsequently died from a drug overdose.

The paintings are probably in the west of Ireland where they will remain indefinitely and are unlikely to surface until Boston mobster James J. "Whitey" Bulger is arrested. Bulger also stars on the FBI's Ten Most Wanted list and was the major Boston criminal at the time of the Gardner Museum robbery. For those who like their criminals fictionalized, Jack Nicholson's portrayal of the Bulger character in Martin Scorsese's 2007 Oscar-winning film The Departed is interesting, but in real life, "Whitey" is still alive.

To curb violent art robbery by organized criminal gangs in Western Europe, those Gardner Museum paintings need recovering as a lesson in the futility of stealing priceless works of art.

Looking ahead

The threat of terrorist activity and violent art crime will come together in London when the city hosts the 2012 Olympics. The museums, galleries and archival stores in London will become soft targets when public order policing dominates Olympic security considerations.

Preparing for and preventing such an attempt is important because it will be the benchmark by which other major violent art crime attacks will be measured in future decades. The war on terror is going to go on for a long time, and international art treasures are vulnerable. We need to think about these potential art crime problems and the solutions to them now. Law enforcement agencies in British Columbia could prudently do the same when preparing for the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver. ■

During his more than 20 years working for the London Police in the U.K., Charles Hill specialized in investigating art and antiques theft. He has been involved in recovering numerous works of art, including the original version of Edvard Munch's Scream, stolen from the National Gallery in Oslo, Norway. Today he provides art risk management and security advice to individual art collectors, dealers and public and private institutions.

Latest research in law enforcement

Digital evidence in the courtroom

By National Institute of Justice (U.S.)

The rapid, widespread adoption of new technology often outpaces society's development of a shared ethic governing its use and the ability of legal systems to deal with it. The handling of digital evidence is a perfect example.

Once the province of "computer crime" cases such as hacking, digital evidence is now found in every crime category. Too often, though, law enforcement agencies and the judiciary are ill-prepared to deal with the issues created by the increasing use of this evidence. Some judges, attorneys and jurors may harbor doubts about the reliability and significance of digital evidence. To prevent misunderstandings at trial, concepts must be explained in simple terms with carefully selected analogies and visual aids.

Maintaining the integrity of digital evidence throughout the process of examination presents different problems from those encountered when handling traditional physical or documentary evidence. Some common problems are exacerbated by the complexity of networked computers. This guide does not address the unique issues that may result from networked environments, focusing rather on selected issues of maintaining the integrity of information taken from stand-alone electronic media.

Both for purposes of admissibility and persuasive value of digital evidence, the prosecutor must show in court that the information obtained from the media is a true and accurate representation of the data originally contained in the media, irrespective of whether the acquisition was done entirely by law enforcement or in part or entirely by a civilian witness or victim.

Like other kinds of evidence, digital evidence can present issues such as relevance, authentication and hearsay. Although these issues are usually resolved on the same basis as other kinds of evidence, some points specific to digital evidence should be kept in mind. In addition to the digital evidence itself, the presentation of such evidence may involve expert testimony and its associated evidentiary issues. Although admissibility is ultimately a legal matter for the prosecutor to address, it may be helpful for the investigator and examiner to have a basic grasp of what will be required to establish admissibility.

A trial that involves digital evidence differs in two fundamental respects from most other trials. First, legal issues concerning the admissibility of digital evidence will nearly always arise. Second, a prosecutor's presentation of digital evidence may involve terms, issues and concepts that are complex or unfamiliar. Therefore, the opening statement should be crafted to introduce the jury to the terminology and types of digital evidence that may be presented during the trial. Careful planning of case presentation and how digital evidence will be used throughout is essential to the successful outcome of a trial.

Too often, law enforcement agencies and the judiciary are ill-prepared to deal with the issues created by the increasing use of this evidence.

To view the full report, visit: ***www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/pubs-sum/211314.htm***

Mental illness and the role of the police

By Michelle Sced

Police organizations play an important role in the management of persons with mental illness. Police, for example, are typically the first, and often the only, responders to mental health crises. They also play a major role in referring individuals to mental health services for treatment. As a result, police have been described as street-corner psychiatrists and front-line mental health practitioners.

The purpose of this paper is to highlight some of the issues experienced by police organizations in relation to mental illness. While the paper is not intended to provide in-depth coverage of all aspects relating to police and mental illness, it is intended to raise questions and promote debate as to the role and responsibilities of police in relation to this issue.

It is estimated that almost 20 per cent of Australia's population (or approximately one in five Australians) will suffer from a mental illness in any 12-month period. The lifetime prevalence rate (the proportion of Australians who will experience a mental illness at some time throughout their life) is estimated to be much greater and to vary according to the type of disorder. For example, about 20 per cent of Australians are likely to experience depression at some time during their life, with 6 per cent suffering a severe form. A further 10 per cent will experience an anxiety disorder. In contrast, the lifetime prevalence rates for schizophrenia and bipolar disorder are much lower at 1 per cent and 2 per cent, respectively.

Contact between police and individuals with mental illness is common. In 2004, in New South Wales alone, police responded to 18,000 calls involving individuals with mental health problems. This equates to almost 50 calls per day.

In the United States, it is estimated that 7 per cent of all official police contacts involve individuals with mental health problems. The literature points to four reasons for the high rate of contact between police and those with mental illness: deinstitutionalization; changing police practices; the association between mental illness and offending; and the association between mental illness and criminal victimization.

This paper highlights some of the issues experienced by police organizations in relation to mental illness – there are many more. What is clear from the previous discussion, however, is that police organizations are not considered major stakeholders in Australia's response to mental illness in the community. This is despite the frequent contact between police and those with mental illness, the many responsibilities police perform within this area, and the fact that police are a major referral source for treatment services.

To view the full report, visit: ***www.acpr.gov.au/publications2.asp?Report_ID=155***

Occupational stressors and noble cause corruption

By David F. Sunahara

In 1985, Carl Klockars introduced the concept of noble cause corruption, or as he called it, "the Dirty Harry Problem." In the film Dirty Harry, the fictional hero – Inspector Harry Callahan – shoots and tortures a psychopathic kidnapper in a failed attempt to save a child's life. Noble cause corruption is characterized by this use of corrupt means to achieve ends deemed to be valuable.

While Dirty Harry is fictional, and the dilemma facing him extreme, the problem of noble cause corruption is real. It plays a role when the desire to convict blinds officers to their own impropriety. Officers who give deceptive or incomplete testimony, who disregard exculpatory evidence, who, as this report will later discuss, cover up the wrongdoing of other officers, engage in noble cause corruption. They act corruptly by stepping outside sanctioned means to achieve ends they deem worthy.

Frequent exposure to operational stressors caused officers to become more tolerant of noble cause corruption.

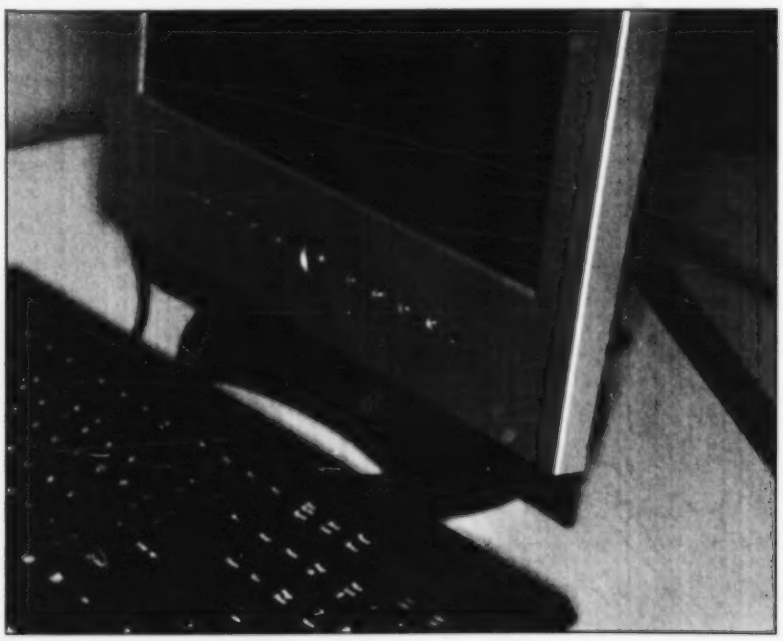
This report addresses the problem of noble cause corruption. In doing so, it looks at some of the organizational and psychological forces that cause some police officers to forget, and others to remember, that the propriety of their means is central to the criminal justice system's integrity and effectiveness.

In this study, officers were asked to rate, on a five-point scale, the seriousness of the misconduct described in several questions. In every case, the majority of officers scored the situations as being very serious. Similarly, only a very small minority of the officers felt that the situations were not serious or were neutral in their evaluation.

Frequent exposure to operational stressors such as conflict with the public, dealing with unsolvable problems and observing children and the elderly being victimized caused officers to become more tolerant of noble cause corruption. Over a third of the officers (36 per cent) reported that they experienced these operational stressors daily. This figure rises to 58 per cent when we examine the experience of constables, the officers most likely to experience such events. Officers with this kind of history were more disinclined to condemn the use of corrupt means than were officers less frequently exposed to operational stressors.

The sense of mission police officers bring to their work, and the frustrating nature of police work, probably means noble cause corruption will remain a problem. But this research suggests that it is a problem that can be ameliorated.■

To view the full report, visit: ***www.cpc.gc.ca/rcd/reports_e.htm***



Nuisances in Nanaimo

City teams up with local police

By Randy Churchill
Manager of Bylaw Services
City of Nanaimo, B.C.

Got a neighbourhood "crack house" problem? Having trouble with a property that receives frequent complaints? Want to use your policing resources more effectively?

Did you ever consider calling the city to see how it can help?

The City of Nanaimo in British Columbia is engaged in a partnership that supports its police in dealing with nuisance properties like the ones mentioned above.

Nanaimo is a coastal city located on Vancouver Island in British Columbia with a population of 79,000. It is a safe place to live but, like any community, does have its share of crime. Drug houses, nuisance properties requiring multiple visits by police, and downtown public disorder problems are all jobs for the local RCMP detachment. But the city is fully involved in an effective operational partnership with police that is seeing positive results.

Ask a crack house owner in the City of Nanaimo what he or she thinks when building inspectors, bylaw officers, fire officials, public works personnel, provincial human resource workers and electrical inspectors show up at their property? Ask these owners how they feel when they find out its going to cost them money every time a police officer or city bylaw officer has to respond to their property?

The City of Nanaimo is now in its fourth year of an evolving strategy to make its neighbourhoods safer by minimizing the impact of crime in the community.

It started when the RCMP's Nanaimo Detachment sought the assistance of the city to find a more resource-effective way of dealing with marijuana grow operations. The detachment began promoting community partnerships by bringing out a vast array of municipal responders to grow-ops in Nanaimo. This joint approach has since grown into a daily partnership on a wide range of nuisance and public disorder issues.

Background

Cities are not mandated to respond to crime—that is a police matter. But in British Columbia, cities do have the mandate under their community charters to deal with property and community safety issues. For instance, cities can deal with noise complaints, nuisance activity, unsafe structures, electrical safety and fire safety deficiencies.

When the city supports its policing partners in these situations, those responsible for nuisances or public disorder problems see an immediate response not only from police, but from a wide range of city services.

That response includes making the property owner accountable for significant costs if these matters are not addressed. It can also include putting the owner through a highly public process in which the City Council, in an open session, decides that the property should be deemed a nuisance. In these cases, all future costs related to visits by police and city department officials will be charged back to the owner.

Our efforts and the resulting successes are not only about creating penalties for the offenders, but establishing the owner's responsibility in solving the nuisances they are knowingly or unknowingly creating in the neighbourhood.

These nuisance cases can involve any number of scenarios: an absentee landlord who is unaware of the problems, a local landlord who does not check the problem properties, a property owner who is afraid of dealing with criminal tenants or who turns a blind eye to derive profit from the rental income, or an owner who is personally involved in the drug activities.

When the city supports its policing partners, those responsible for nuisances or public disorder problems see an immediate response not only from police, but from a wide range of city services.

How it works

Nuisance properties such as crack houses come to the city's attention primarily through the Nanaimo police detachment but also through citizens calling the city to complain about them. Police officers identify properties where disturbances have been excessive and are associated with occupants involved in the drug trade. In cases where an immediate investigation and search warrant is not appropriate, the file is forwarded to the Nanaimo Detachment Bike Unit for analysis. The complaint may be referred to the city's bylaw services for action as a nuisance property.

Based on the owner's involvement and culpability, the city's first efforts involve offering assistance to the owner on how to bring the property into compliance to end the disturbing behaviour. Often it just takes one meeting between the police, the city and owner to bring about a resolution. Sometimes it takes more effort to educate property owners about their rights and responsibilities under the Residential Tenancy Act. Other times it takes intervention at the property itself to discuss the matter with problem tenants. Occasionally the threat of expense to the owner is required to bring about the desired remedy.

If these measures do not work, the city's bylaw services sends an official notification to the owner that the property will be brought before Council at the next

open meeting and will be deemed a nuisance. This step results in the owner being charged the full costs of all wages and vehicle use whenever police or city members subsequently respond to complaints about the property. The billing will continue until the property no longer causes nuisance activity.

Results

To say this has been effective is an understatement. When the City of Nanaimo first started seeking compensation from owners through its Nuisance Abatement Bylaw, it took between three and six months to close down a nuisance property. Today, on average, it takes less than one month from the time police identify the problem property to the owner reaching full compliance. It is the compliance process and the threat of a public and financial impact that seem to make it all work.

Last year, the city dealt with 37 properties by using this process. Only three cases required taking the property to City Council for action. In all other cases, educating the owner, jointly inspecting the property, bringing the owner in to meet with police and bylaw services personnel, supporting the owner by explaining the Residential Tenancy Act, and visiting the tenants at the problem properties were sufficient to bring them into compliance and satisfy the neighbourhood.

The police detachment in Nanaimo has quickly found support to leverage its ability to respond more effectively to crime in the city.

Other partnerships

Dealing with nuisance properties and working with the local police detachment has led to many other partnerships in the City of Nanaimo.

The City of Nanaimo's Nuisance Property Working Group includes representatives from the city, the province, B.C. Hydro and the RCMP.

The city is now in its third year of revitalizing its downtown core by dealing with the challenges of public safety, security and the social needs of its homeless population. The city has also developed a joint police and city response to grow-ops with full cost recovery for the city. In all cases, this approach involves the partnership between the city, police and other stakeholders.

The city's work in supporting safe neighbourhoods has involved its parks department, public works department, the downtown Nanaimo business association and bylaw services. The police detachment in Nanaimo has quickly found support to leverage its ability to respond more effectively to crime in the city.

The city's Nuisance Property Working Group meets monthly to consider new problem properties, share information and discuss new approaches.

In its new partnership with the province's Housing Integrated Task Team (HITT), the city is supporting that team's efforts to promote safer housing for all by addressing issues around homelessness and affordable housing in the community. HITT focuses on fostering a closer working relationship with landlords whose tenants receive assistance, and creating a safe housing registry for those in need. This fits the city's goal of effectively addressing nuisance properties and providing safe housing, particularly as it recognizes the negative impact of slum landlords who place profit ahead of tenant safety.

The Nuisance Property Working Group will also be forging new links with correctional facilities so it can better recognize properties where drug activities are known to be occurring. These properties pose a high risk to inmates who are trying to find safe housing as part of their integration back into society.

The City of Nanaimo believes in safe housing, safe neighbourhoods and safe communities through partnerships—and it is making a difference. ■

Workforce resilience at the RCMP

This is the first article in the Gazette's *new department on emerging trends in policing.*

By Alice d'Anjou

Sonya Gemmil and S/Sgt Marc Lefebvre demonstrate the assembly of a family emergency kit. The RCMP's employee resilience initiative encourages members to involve family and friends in emergency preparedness activities.

Police officers are by nature skilled problem solvers who are trained to react quickly in uncertain and sometimes dangerous circumstances. Ask any police officer and he or she will tell you that responding to emergencies is all in a day's work. But are they ready to respond to a large-scale emergency or disaster?

For the RCMP, this question is not academic. Over the past several years, a series of previously unthinkable events have caused police agencies to reconsider their state of operational readiness. The Sept. 11 attacks, the Asian tsunami, hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and the massive bombings in Madrid and London required extraordinary efforts from a wide range of responding agencies.

Here at home, reports of floods, forest fires, severe weather, power blackouts and terrorist threats, and warnings of an inevitable flu pandemic arrive daily, and require response. In addition to its federal responsibilities, the RCMP is the local police force of jurisdiction in hundreds of communities across Canada. The probability of the RCMP being asked to respond to a large-scale emergency seems to increase daily.

Is the RCMP ready?

The RCMP's Operational Readiness Response Co-ordination Centre (ORRCC) is dedicated to ensuring that the RCMP is prepared at all times to mount effective and sustainable responses to emergencies. Overall, the RCMP is ready to respond to emergencies, but there is room for improvement, and it is taking steps to accomplish just that.

Much of ORRCC's efforts to strengthen and enhance the RCMP's operational readiness has focused on the traditional emergency preparedness: emergency and business continuity planning, emergency exercises, and national and divisional emergency operations centres. Some of the issues being addressed—resources, governance, information management/information technology capacity and horizontal co-ordination between internal and external partners—will no doubt be familiar to most first-response organizations.

However, as ORRCC studied lessons learned from recent events, an interesting new issue began to emerge—the importance of the human element.

The RCMP's most important resource is its people. Large-scale emergencies or disasters pose unique psychological, social and physical challenges that can test the most seasoned first responder. Many RCMP employees live in the communities they serve. When disaster strikes, chances are good that they will be personally affected.

If officers and other employees do not report for work or are distracted from their duties by concerns for their homes, families or their own personal safety, the RCMP cannot fulfill its mandate. This was a significant challenge to local authorities in the aftermath of hurricane Katrina. Because disasters are unpredictable, developing a resilient workforce that is able to work under difficult and changing circumstances and recover quickly following a disaster has become an important component of the RCMP's operational readiness effort. Workforce resilience must also extend to employees' families as they have a direct influence on our employees' ability and willingness to do their jobs.

The RCMP is preparing a multifaceted initiative that includes strengthening and enhancing existing employee assistance programs, ensuring appropriate health and safety systems and making sure that personal protection equipment are in place for events such as a flu pandemic. The RCMP is also developing user-friendly resources and tools that employees and their families can use to prepare for emergencies at work and at home.

Involving friends and family in emergency preparedness is critical. Because the best conversations often take place over a family meal or cup of coffee, the ORRCC team has dubbed the workforce resilience initiative "Taking it to the kitchen table."

Workforce resilience is the human factor in emergency and continuity plans, and one of the cornerstones of operational readiness. However, it is often overlooked in traditional approaches to emergency preparedness. If an organization waits until a disaster strikes before considering this issue, it will be too late. The RCMP is working hard to ensure that if and when things go wrong, its employees will be ready. ■